REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE *(DD-MM-YYYY)*	**2. REPORT TYPE**	**3. DATES COVERED** *(From - To)*
20 May 2016	Master's Thesis/ Briefing Charts	06 April 2016-20 May 2016

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE
Ion Dynamics of a BHT-600 Hall Thruster Measured with Time-Resolved Laser-Induced Fluorescence

5a. CONTRACT NUMBER

5b. GRANT NUMBER

5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

6. AUTHOR(S)
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5d. PROJECT NUMBER

5e. TASK NUMBER

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
Q18A

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AND ADDRESS(ES)

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC)
AFRL/RQRS
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8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NO.

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

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10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)

11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)
AFRL-RQ-ED-VG-2016-088

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
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13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES
For presentation at PhD Thesis Defense at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA; May 20, 2016
PA Case Number: # 16204; Clearance Date: 04/27/2016

14. ABSTRACT
Master's Thesis/ Briefing Charts

15. SUBJECT TERMS
N/A

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			**17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT**	**18. NUMBER OF PAGES**	**19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON**
					N. MacDonald
a. REPORT	**b. ABSTRACT**	**c. THIS PAGE**	SAR	34	**19b. TELEPHONE NO** *(include area code)*
Unclassified	**Unclassified**	**Unclassified**			N/A

Ion Dynamics of a BHT-600 Hall Thruster Measured with Time-Resolved Laser-Induced Fluorescence

Christopher V. Young

Andrea Lucca Fabris and Mark Cappelli

Natalia MacDonald-Tenenbaum

William A. Hargus, Jr.

Air Force Research Laboratory | Edwards AFB, CA | January 14, 2016

Motivation

- Build on existing foundation of laser-induced fluorescence expertise, improving time-resolved capabilities
- Bring high spatial resolution, precision, and non-perturbing diagnostic to dynamical studies of Hall thruster oscillations like breathing mode
- Understand time evolution of complex Hall thruster ion flow field in 2D (radial/azimuthal velocities plus axial)
- Provide next level of data for benchmarking and comparison between thruster experiments and simulations

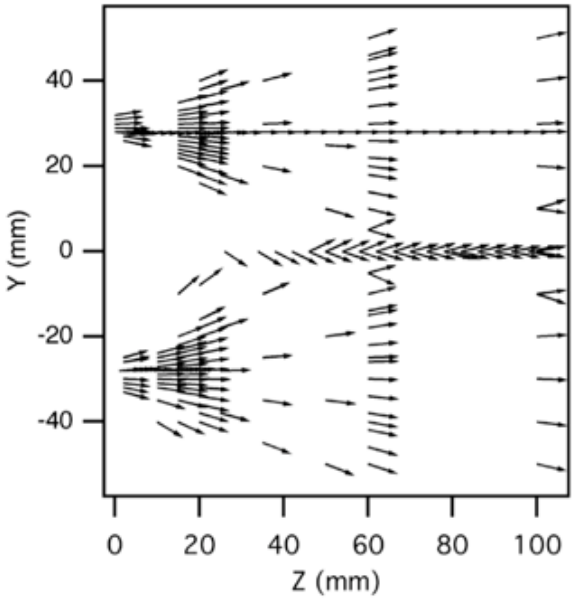
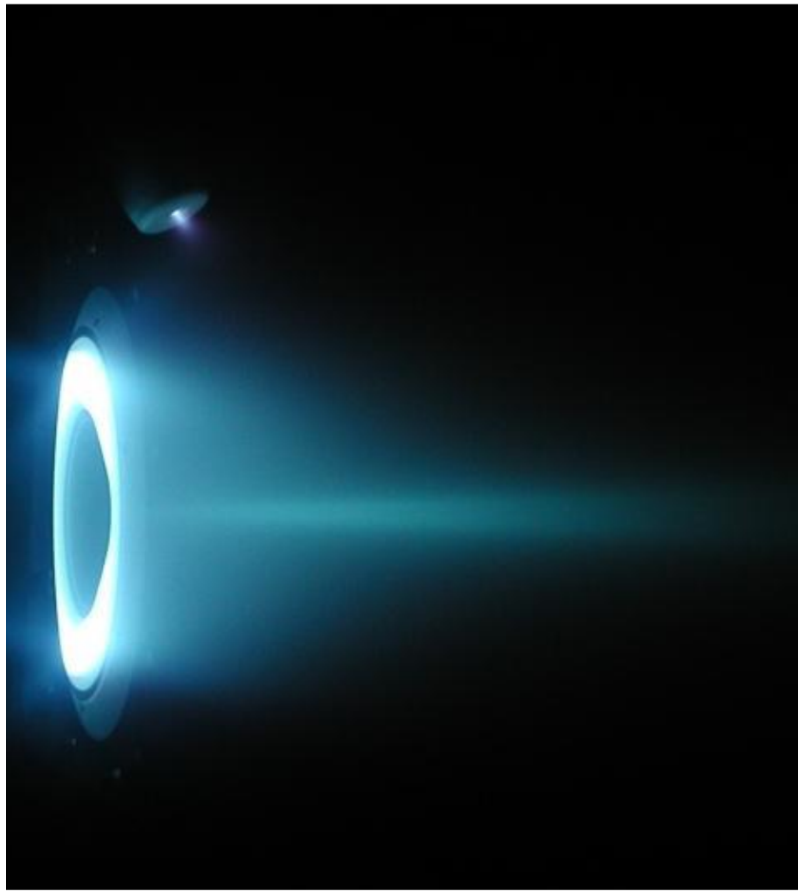


Fig. 5 Ion velocity vector plot in the *Y*-*Z* plane ($X = 0$).

W. A. Hargus Jr. and C. S. Charles, J. Propul. Power. **26** (2010) 135

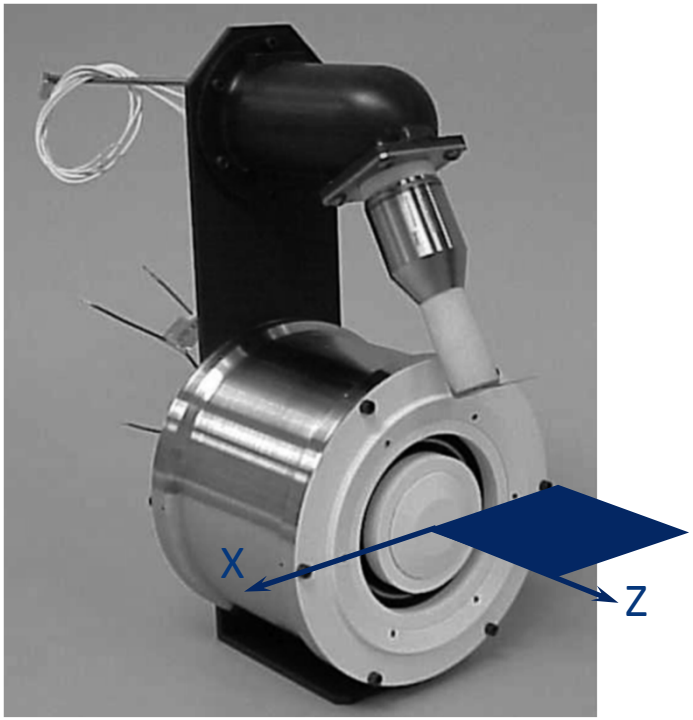
Outline

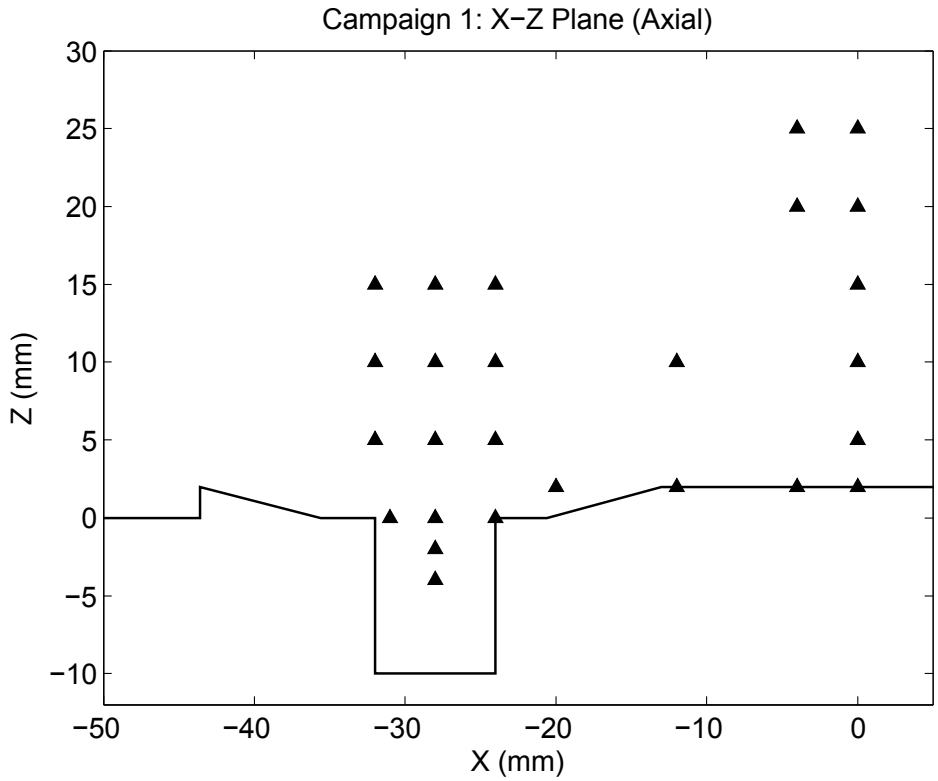
- BHT-600 Measurement Campaign
- Time-Resolved Laser-Induced Fluorescence Method
- Preliminary Results
- Summary



BHT-600 Measurement Campaign

Goal: Map xenon ion velocity vectors in the channel and near-field plume evolving over the 48 kHz breathing mode oscillation.

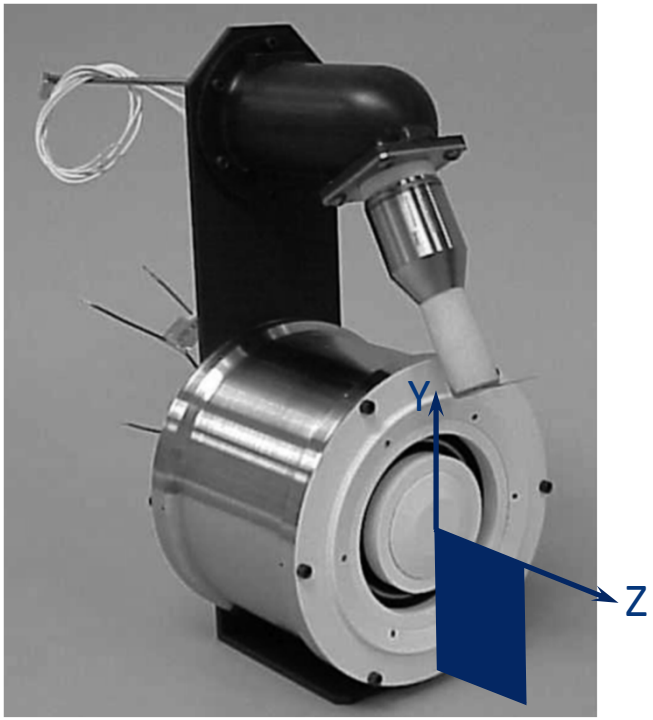


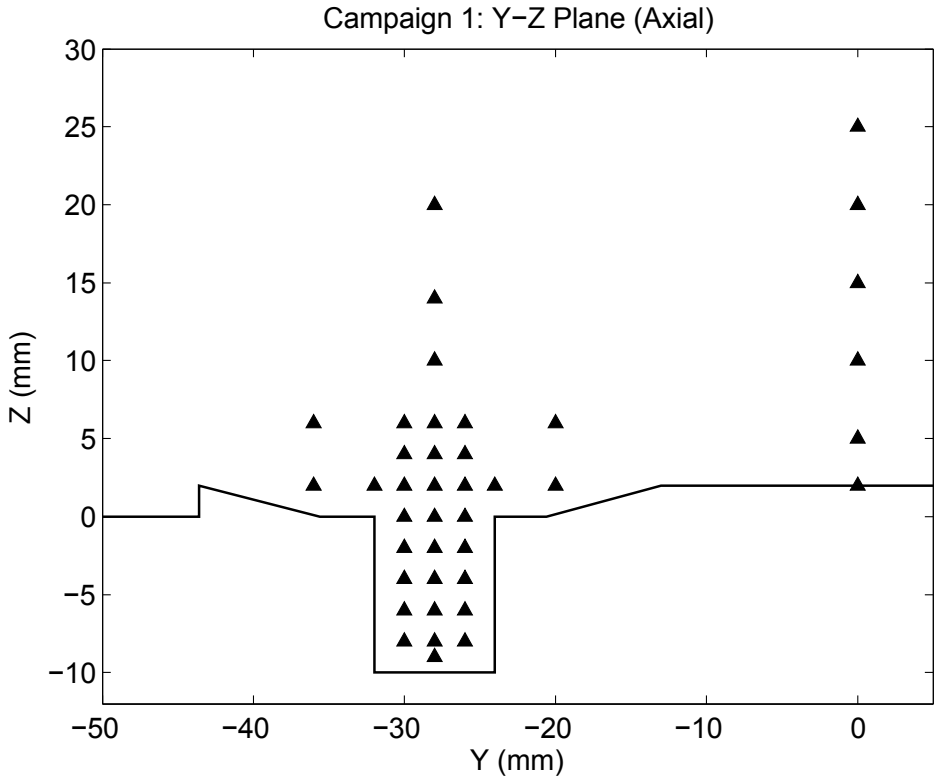


Dataset 1: 26 points in X-Z, axial (04/2015 – 05/2015, 9 days total operation)

BHT-600 Measurement Campaign

Goal: Map xenon ion velocity vectors in the channel and near-field plume evolving over the 48 kHz breathing mode oscillation.

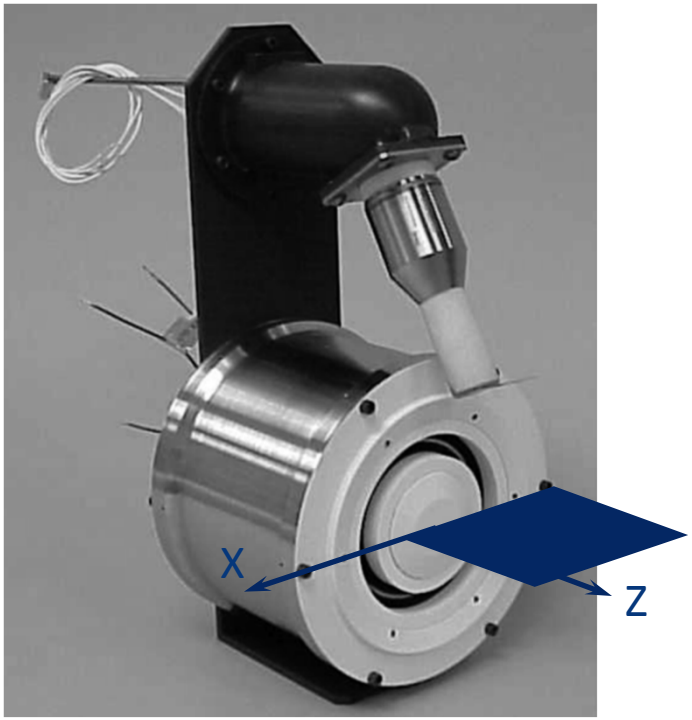


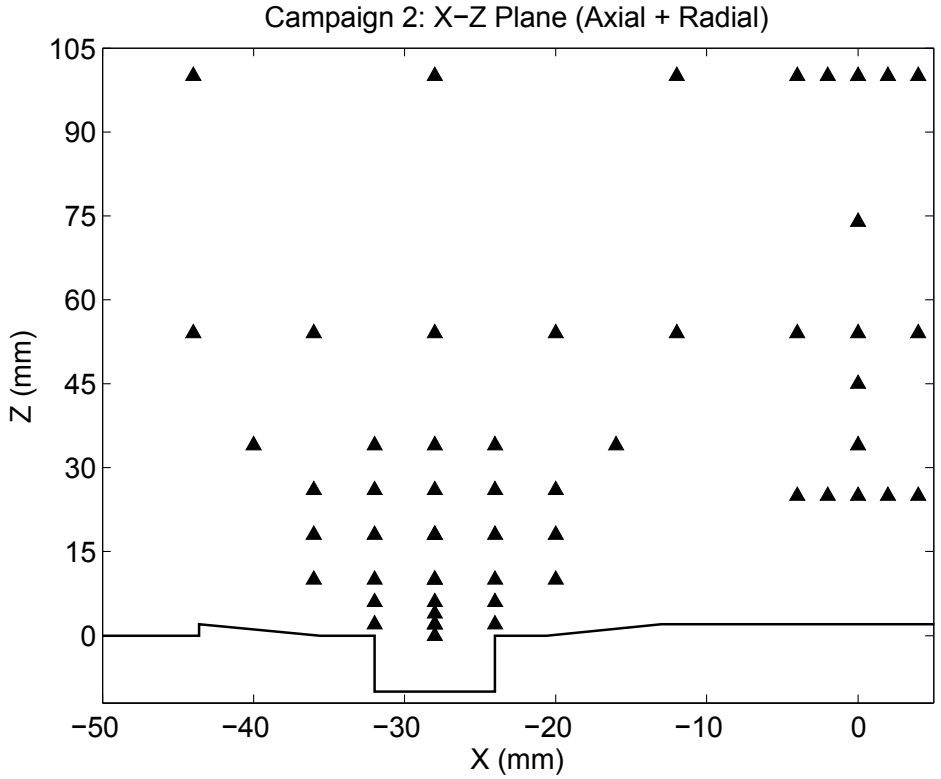


Dataset 2: 34 points in Y-Z, axial (04/2015 – 05/2015, 9 days total operation)

BHT-600 Measurement Campaign

Goal: Map xenon ion velocity vectors in the channel and near-field plume evolving over the 48 kHz breathing mode oscillation.

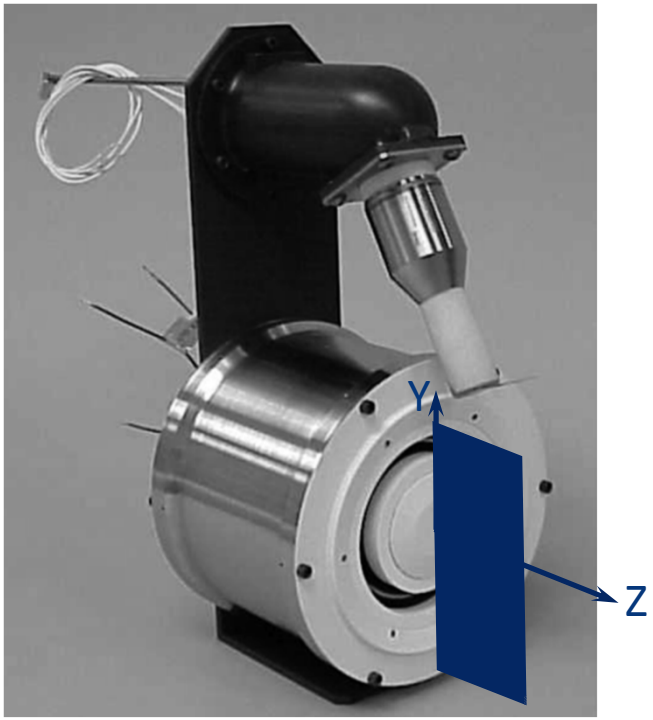


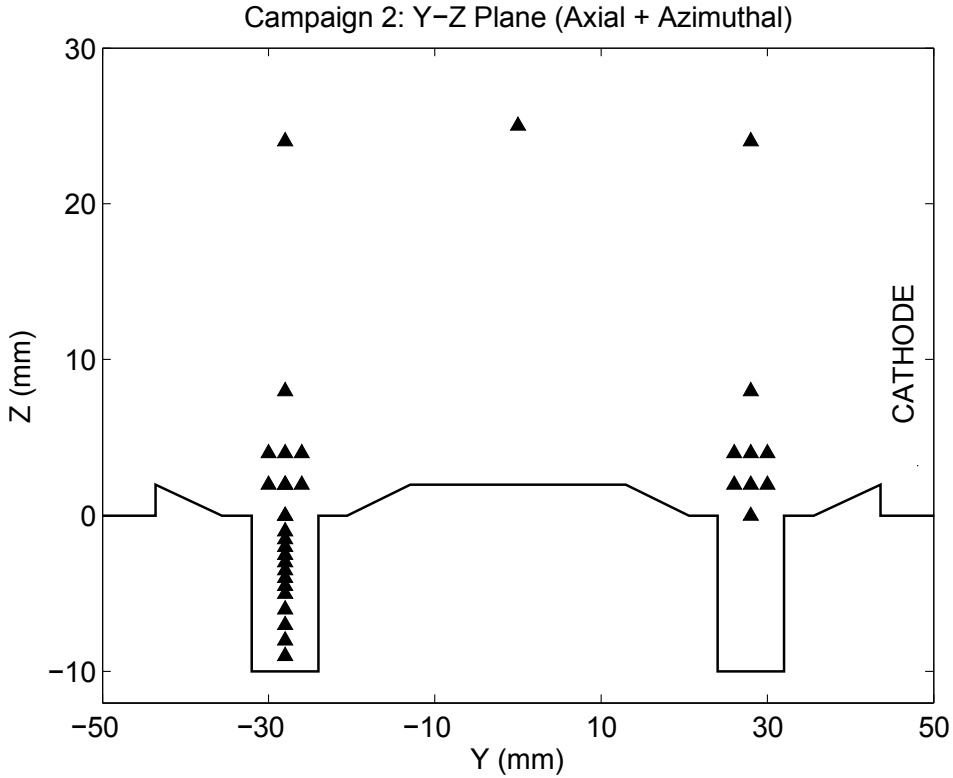


Dataset 3: 55 points in X-Z, axial + radial (11/2015 – 01/2016, 13 days total operation)

BHT-600 Measurement Campaign

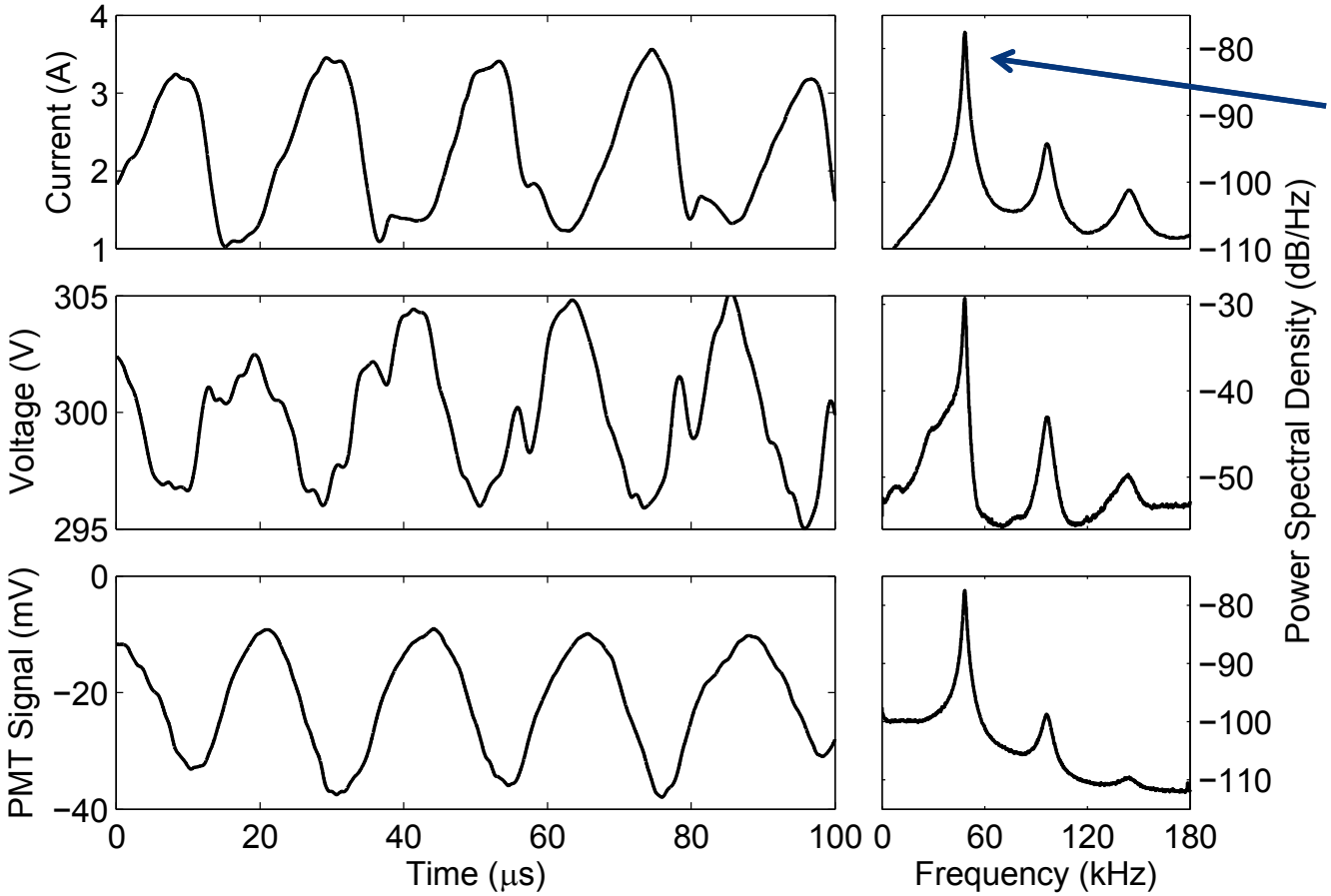
Goal: Map xenon ion velocity vectors in the channel and near-field plume evolving over the 48 kHz breathing mode oscillation.





Dataset 4: 16 points in Y-Z, axial + azimuthal; 25 additional axial points in channel and near-field plume (11/2015 – 01/2016, 13 days total operation)

BHT-600 Operating Condition



Anode Potential: 300 V

Anode Current: 2.05 – 2.15 A

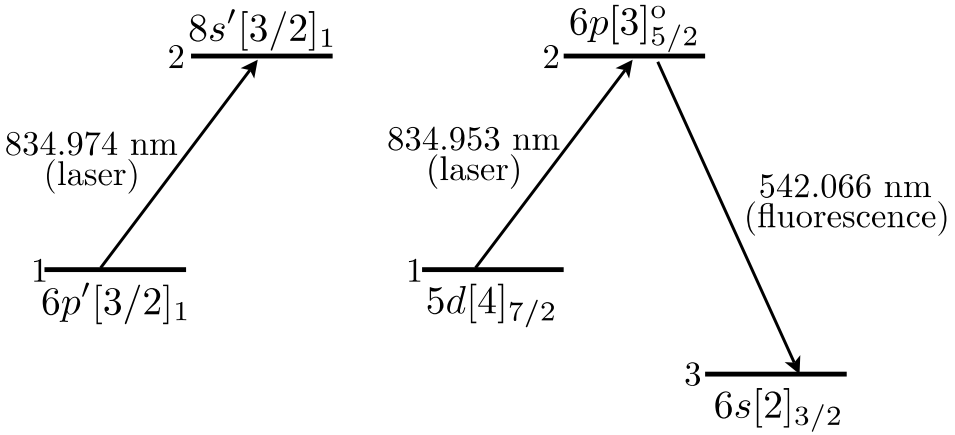
Anode Flow: 22.5 sccm Xe

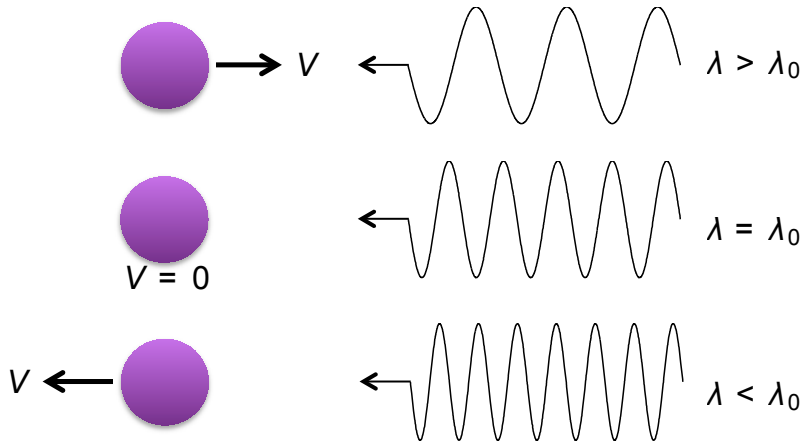
Cathode Flow: 1.5 sccm Xe

Magnet 1 Current: 1.75 A

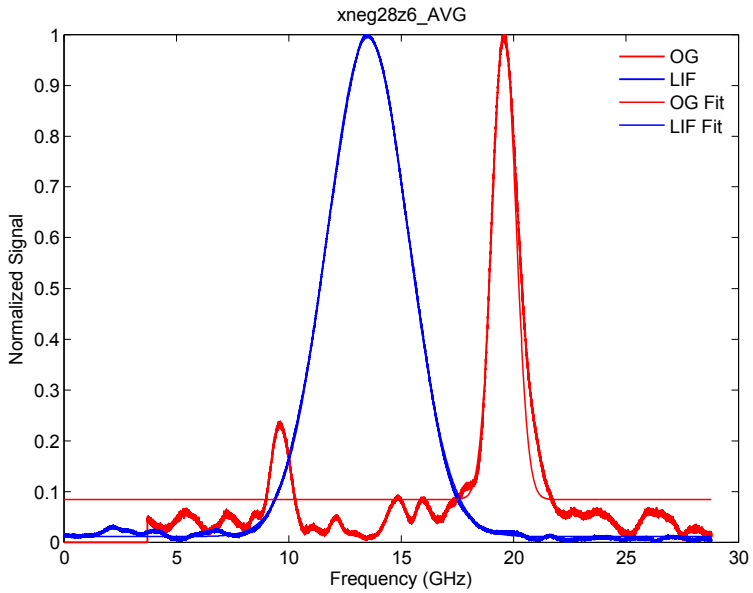
Magnet 2 Current: 1.75 A

Time-Resolved LIF Method





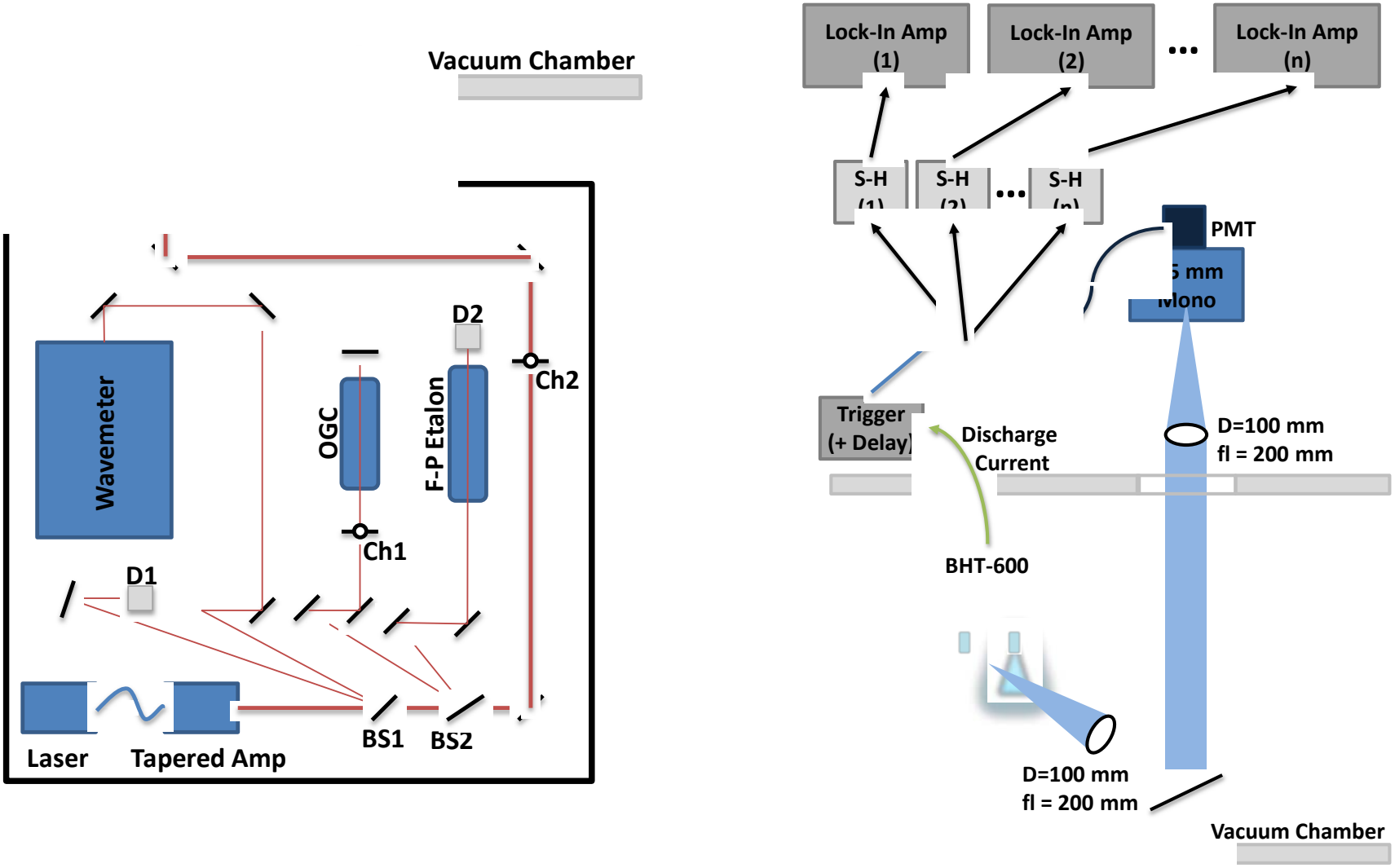
Xe I Xe II



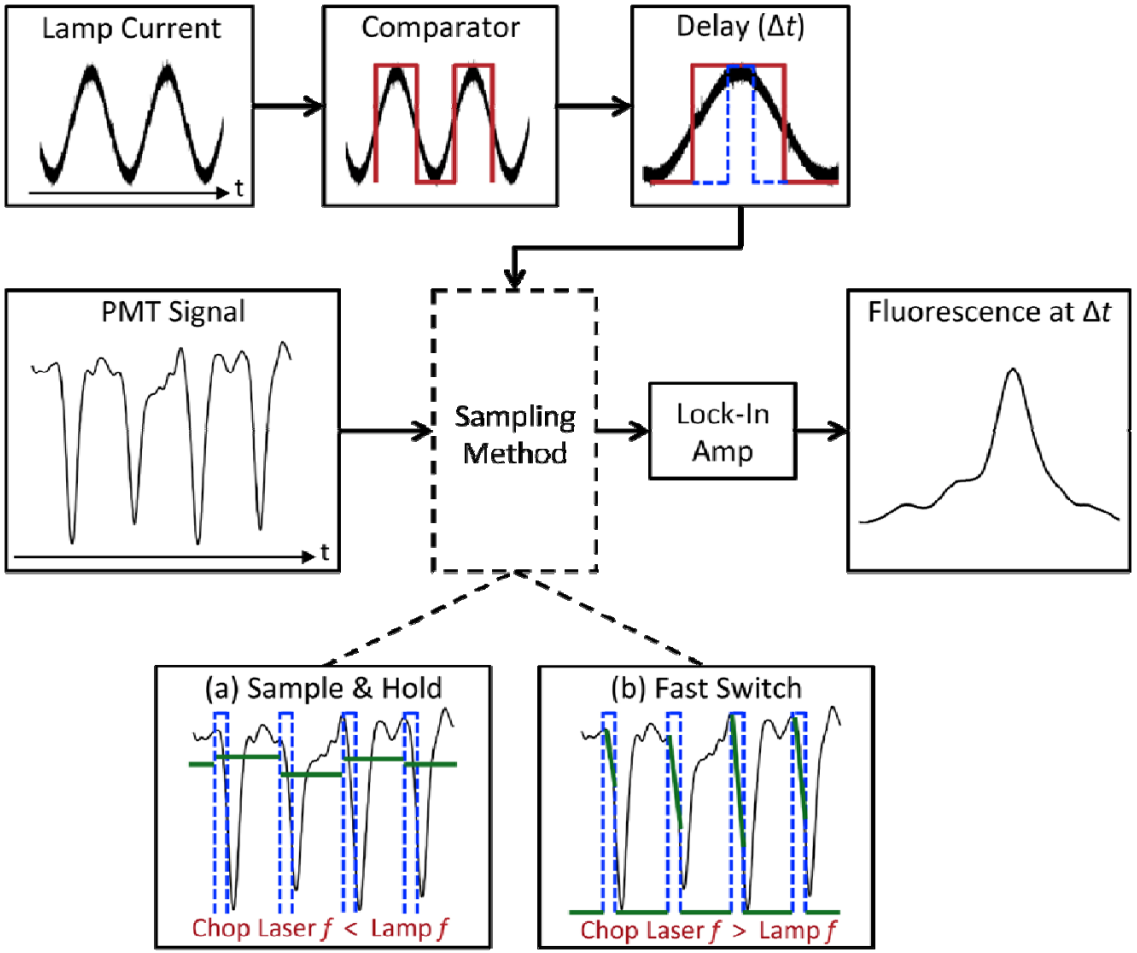
Ion Velocity from Doppler Shift:

$$v = c\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega}$$

Time-Resolved LIF Method



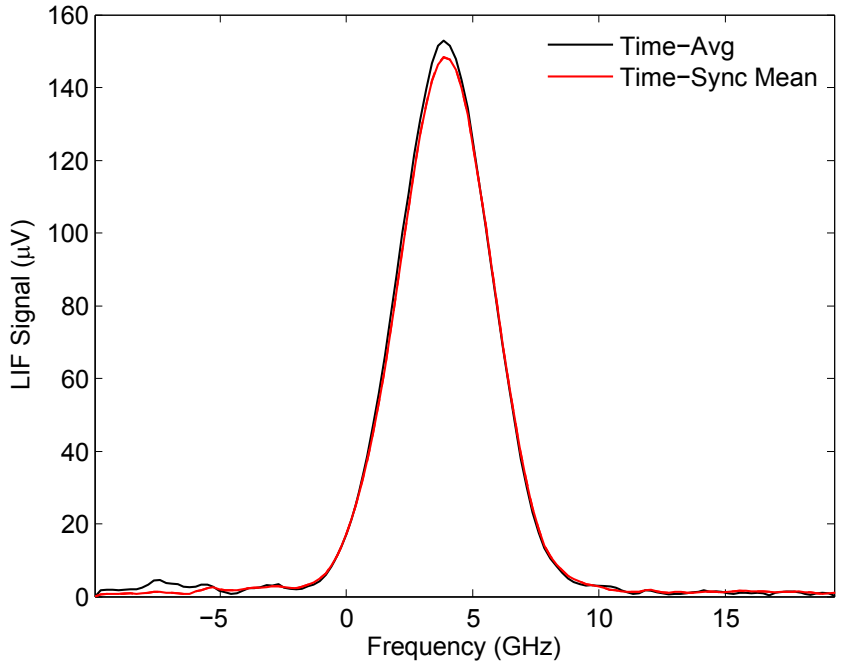
Time-Resolved LIF Method



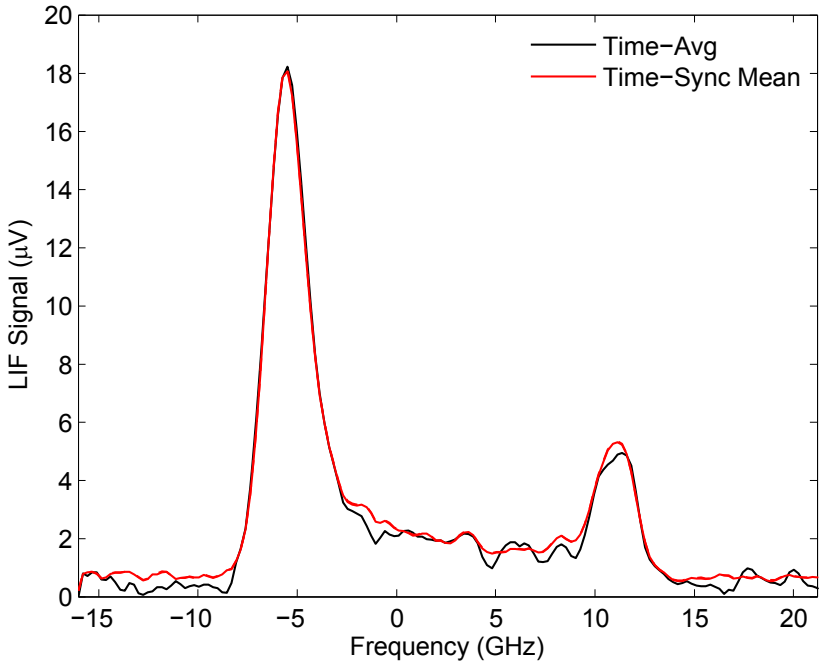
- **Campaign 1**
  - 1 µs gates
  - 23 time points (0 – 23 µs) + avg
  - 6 lock-ins / SH circuits
  - 4 laser scans / point
- **Campaign 2**
  - 1 µs gates
  - 27 time points (0 – 20 µs) + avg
  - 10 lock-ins / SH circuits
  - 3 laser scans / point

Time-Resolved LIF Method: Validation

$(x, y, z) = (-28, 0, 6)$ mm

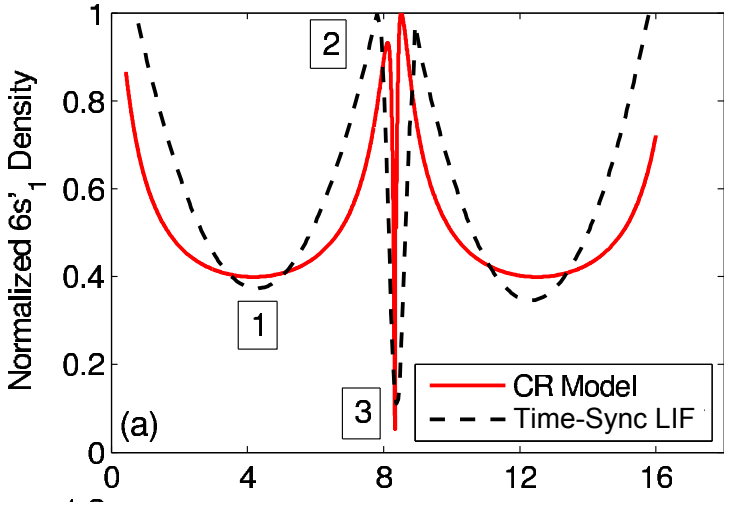


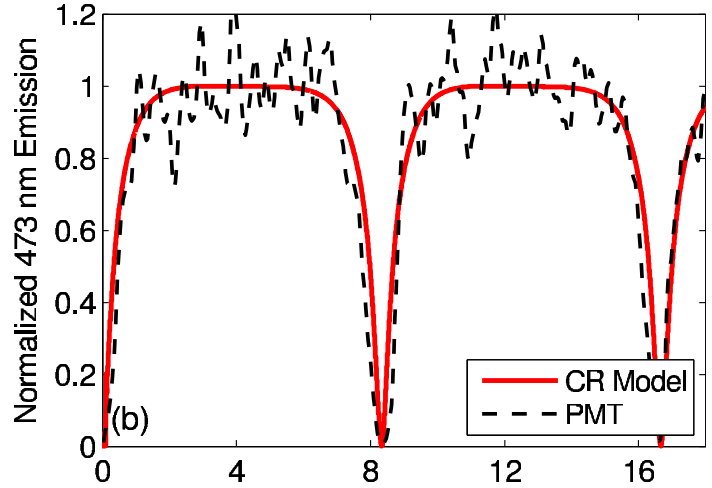
$(x, y, z) = (-4, 0, 54)$ mm

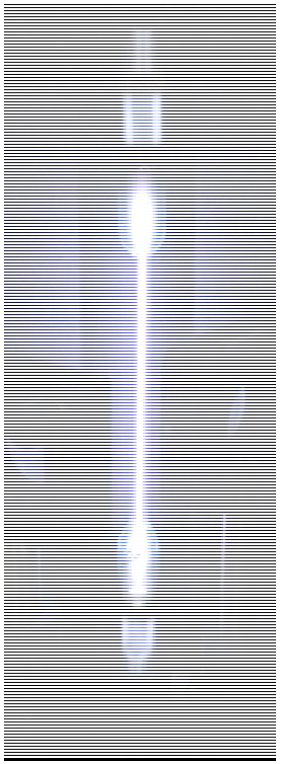


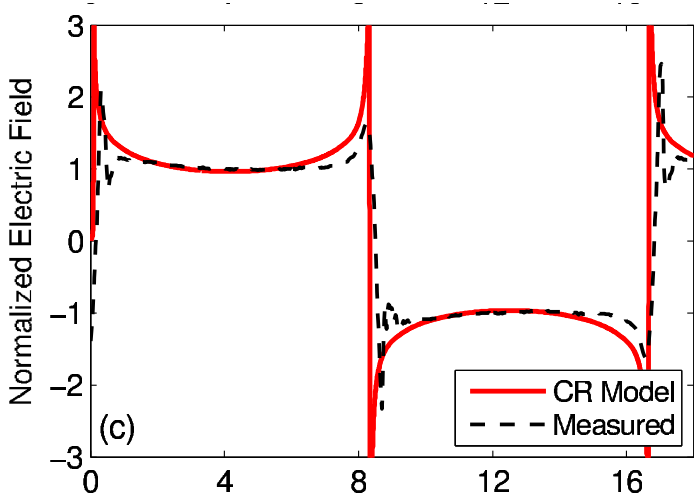
Sanity Check: Averaging the time-resolved traces recovers the time-averaged trace without sample-hold processing

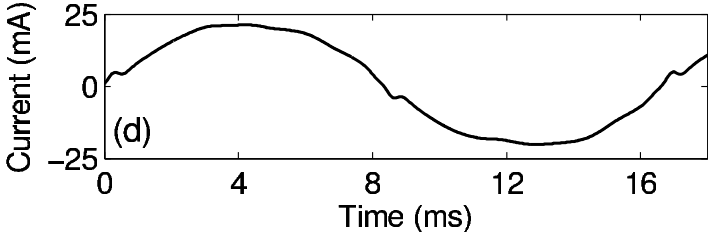
Time-Resolved LIF Method: Validation







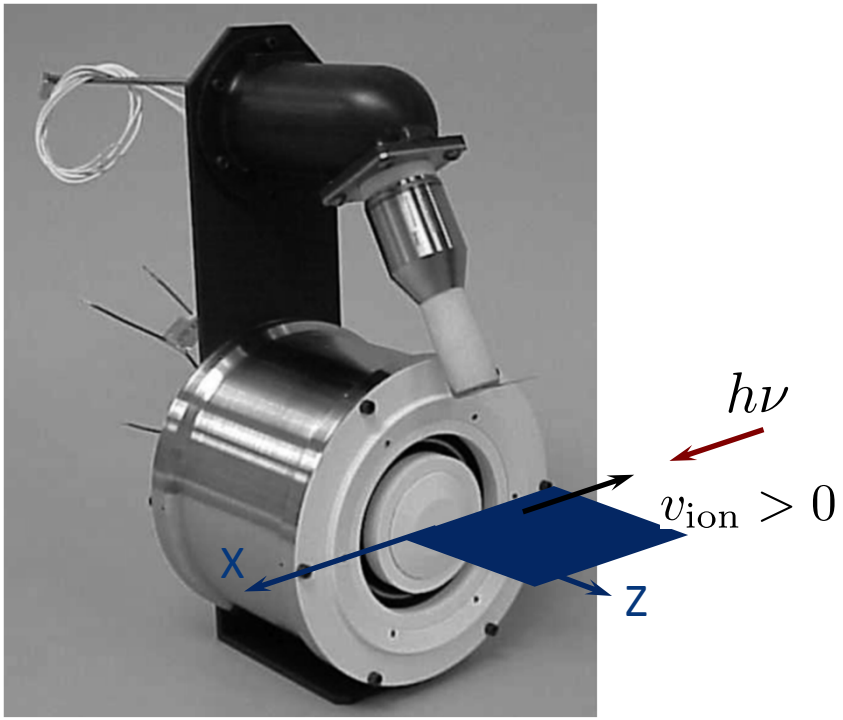


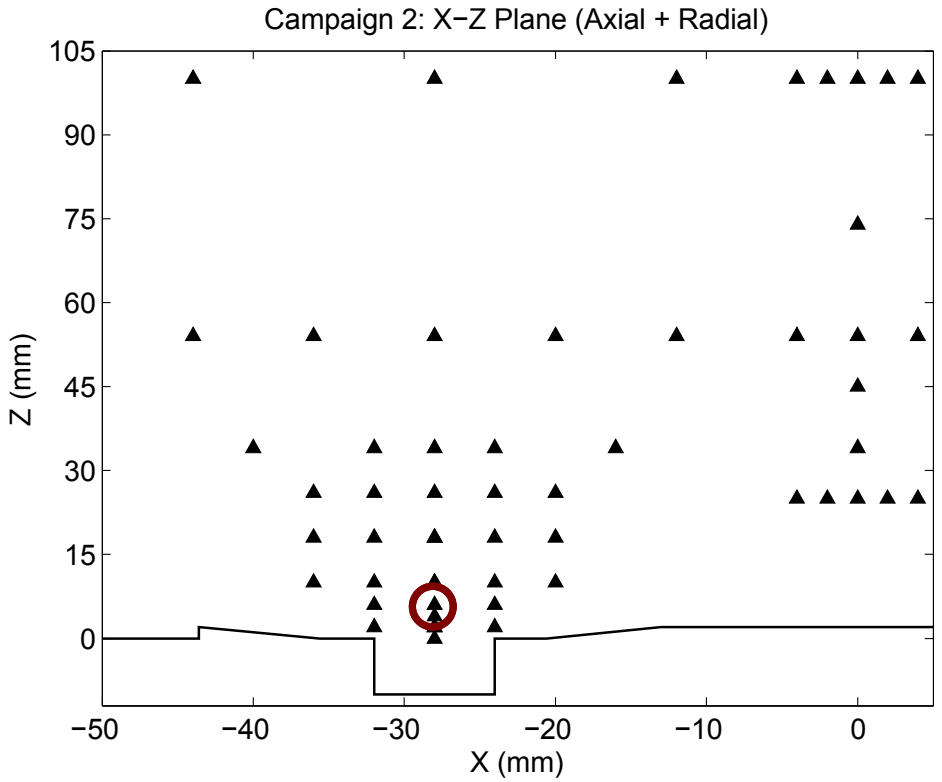


60 Hz Discharge: Collisional radiative model accurately reproduces measured quantities, including relative excited state density obtained from LIF peak intensity

A. Lucca Fabris, C. V. Young, and M. A. Cappelli, Plasma Sources Sci. Technol. **24** (2015) 055013

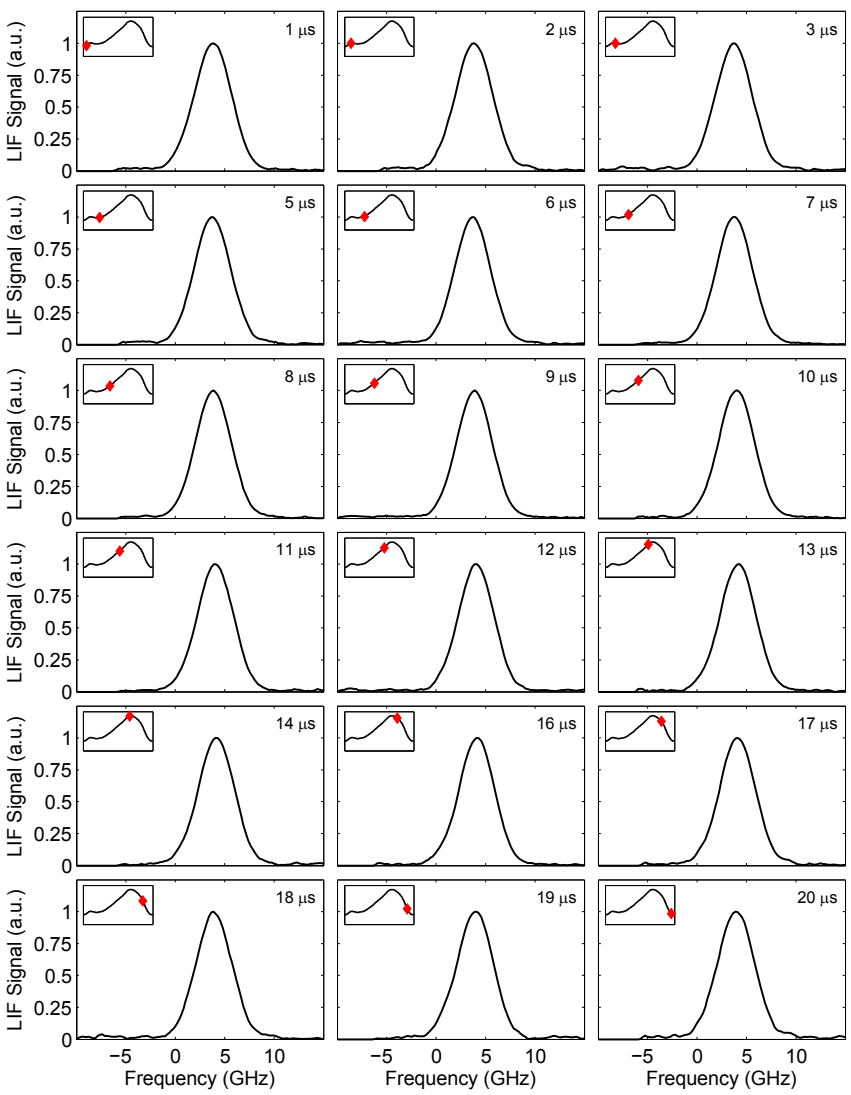
Results: Example Time Series (Radial)

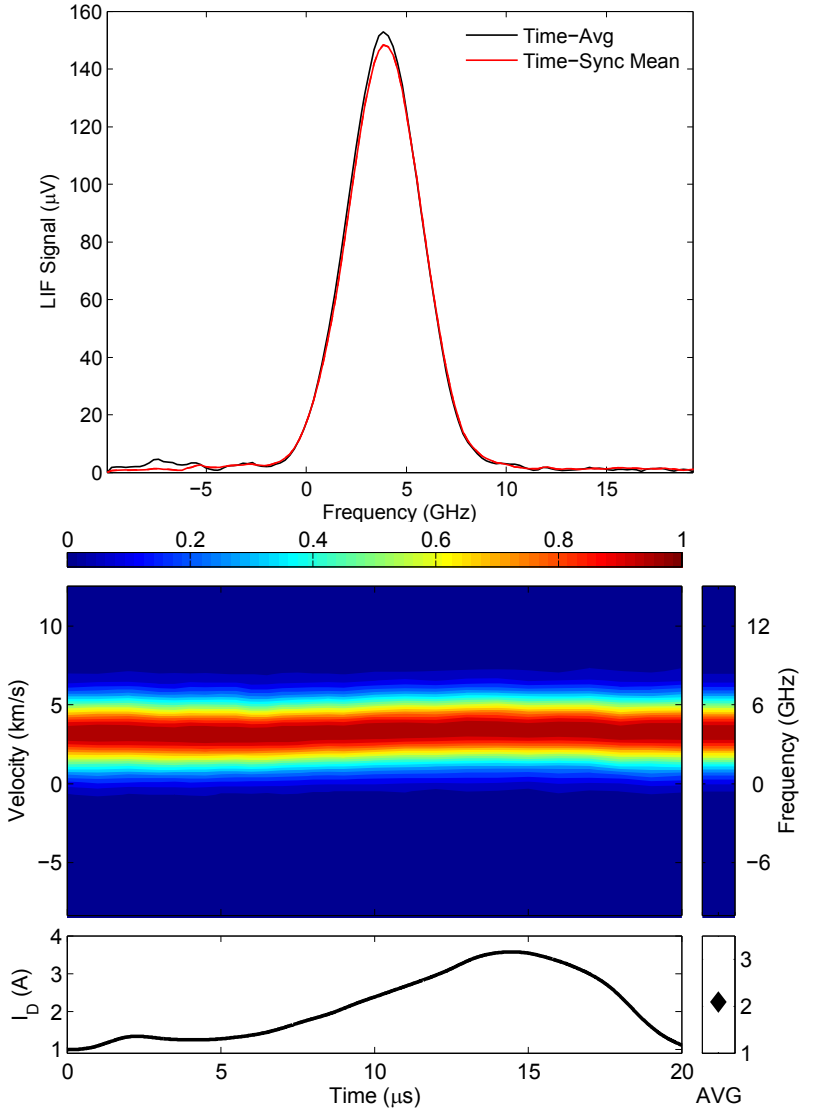




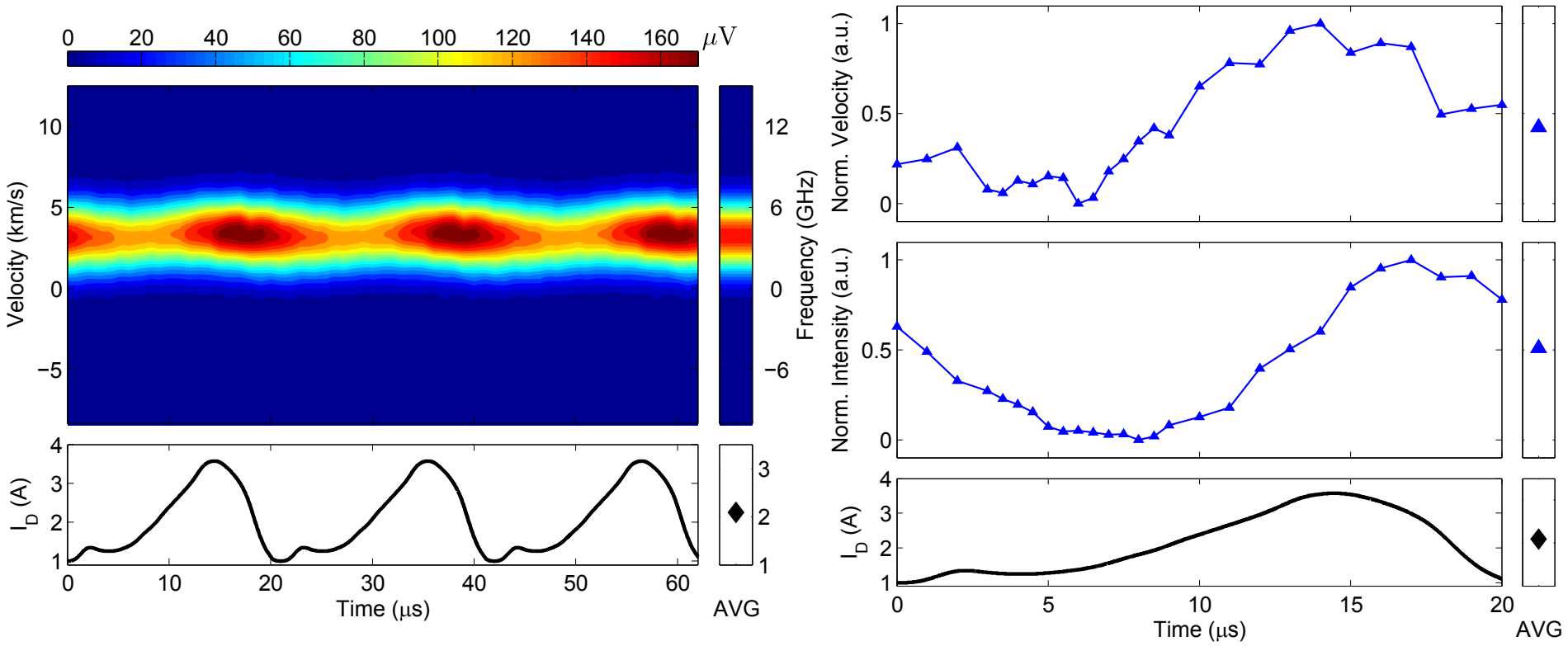
Example Point (Radial): $(x, y, z) = (-28, 0, 6)$ mm

Results: Example Time Series (Radial)



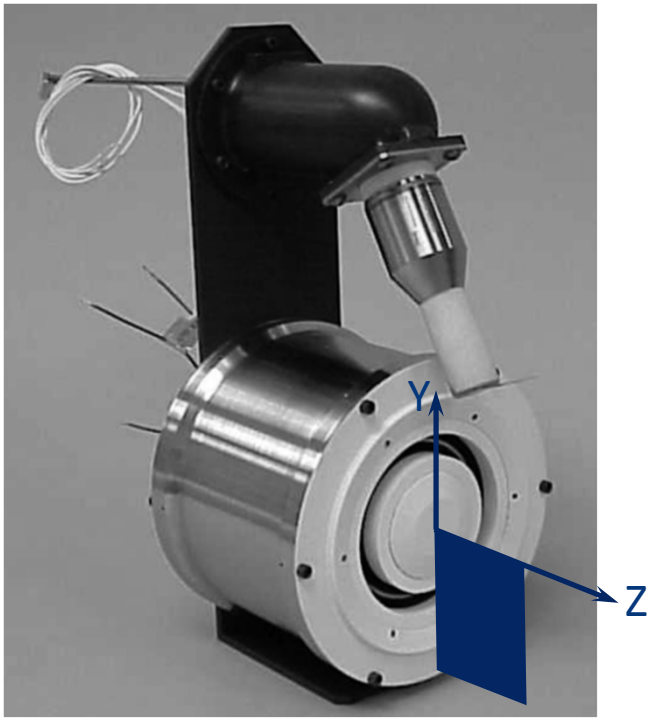


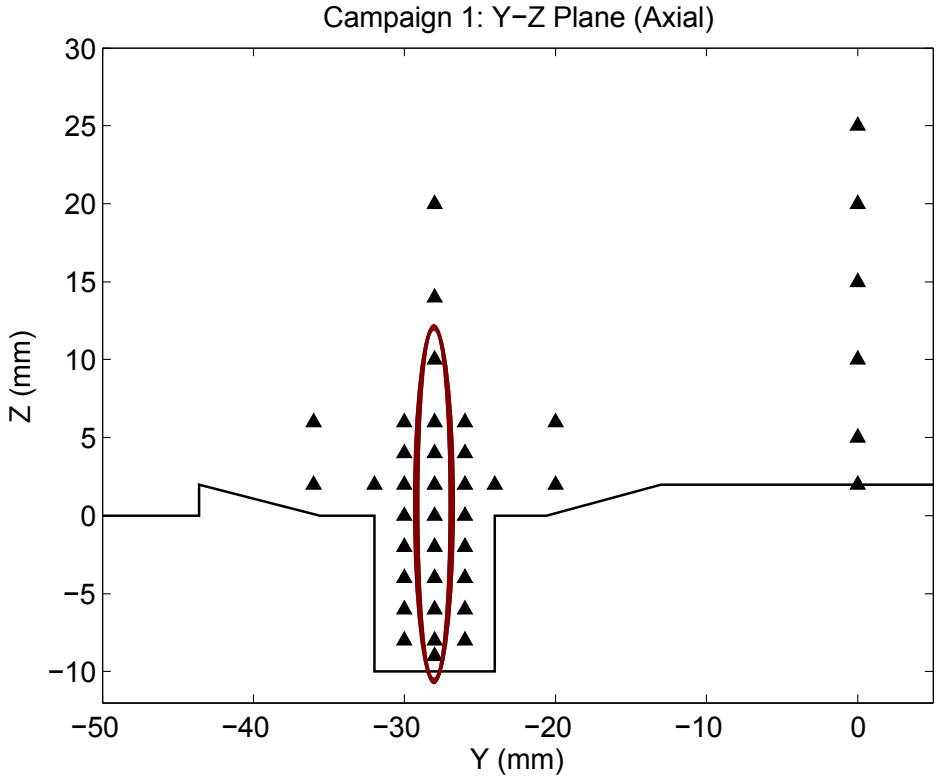
Results: Example Time Series (Radial)



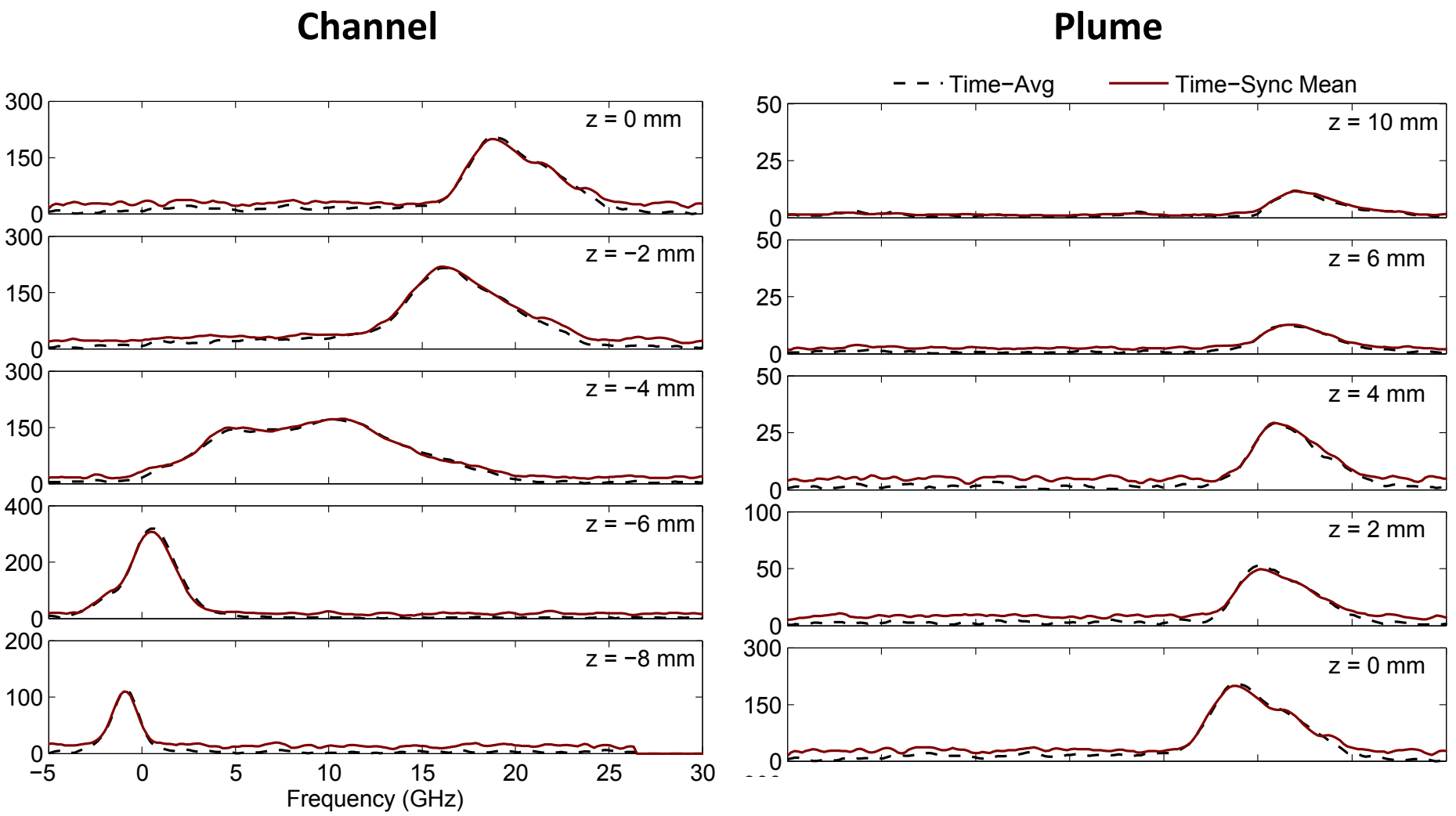
Interesting Behavior: Radial data show small modulation in velocity and intensity correlated with primarily axial breathing mode

Results: Campaign 1 (Channel, Axial)

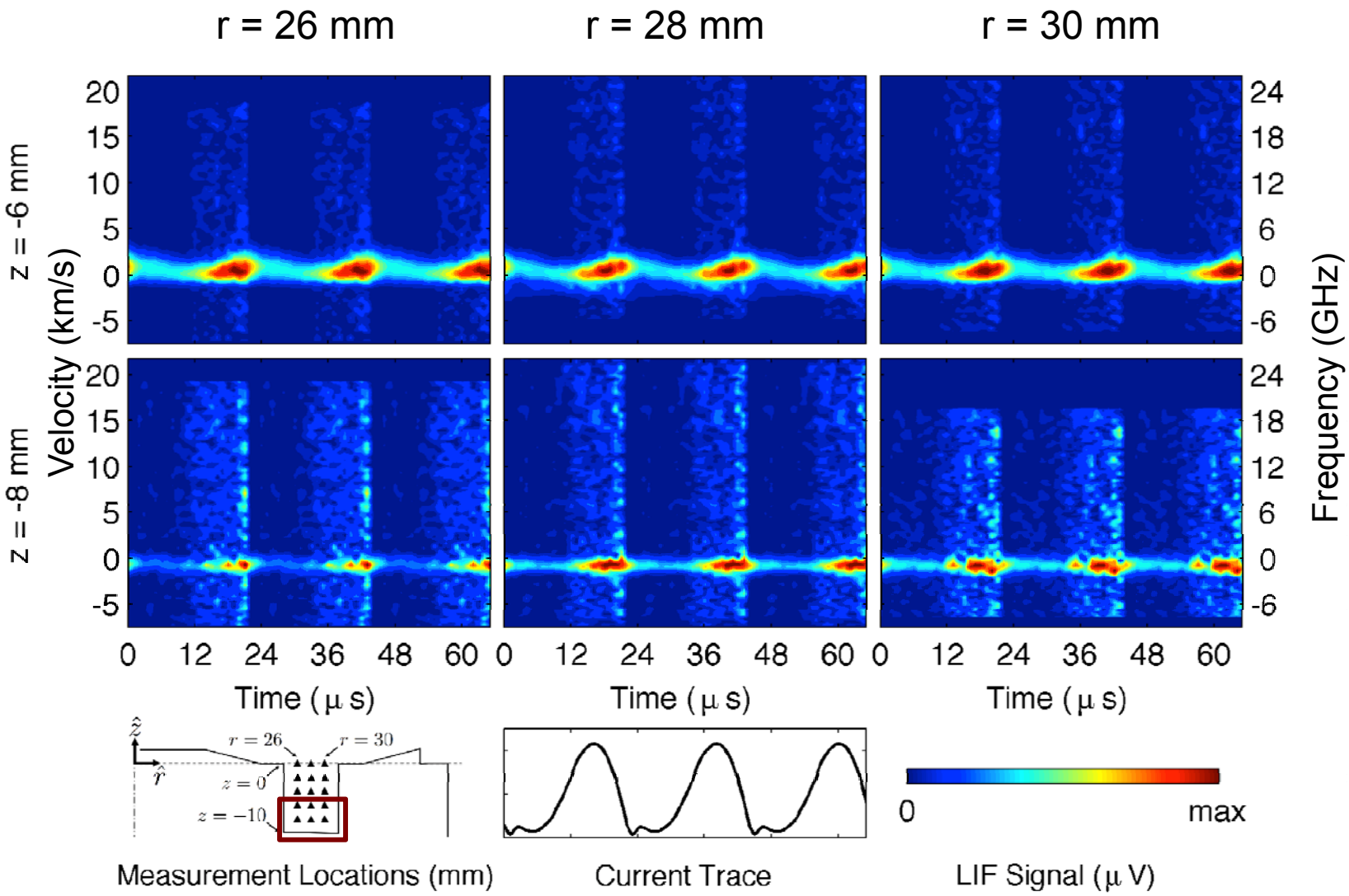




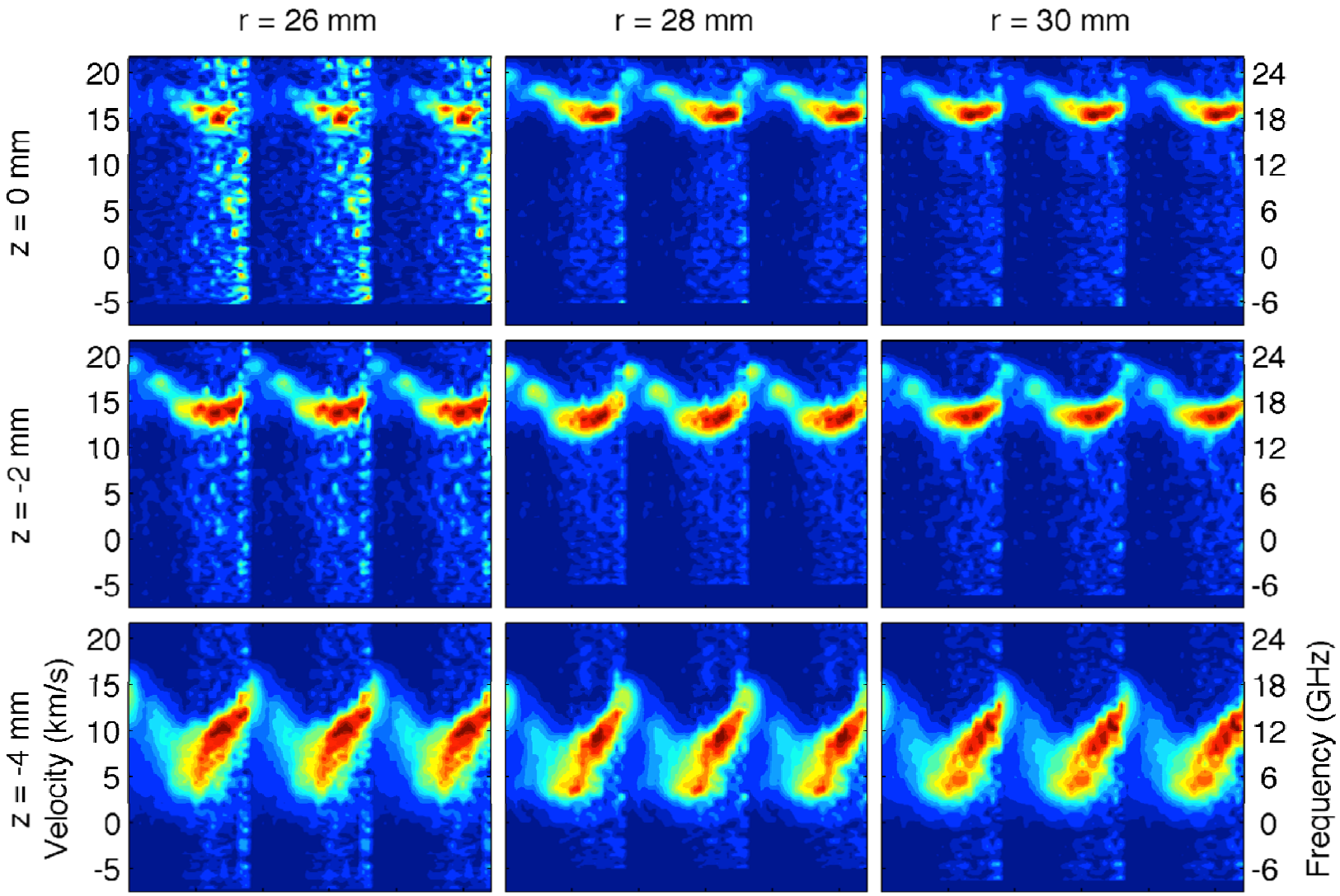
Results: Campaign 1 (Channel, Axial)



Results: Campaign 1 (Channel, Axial)

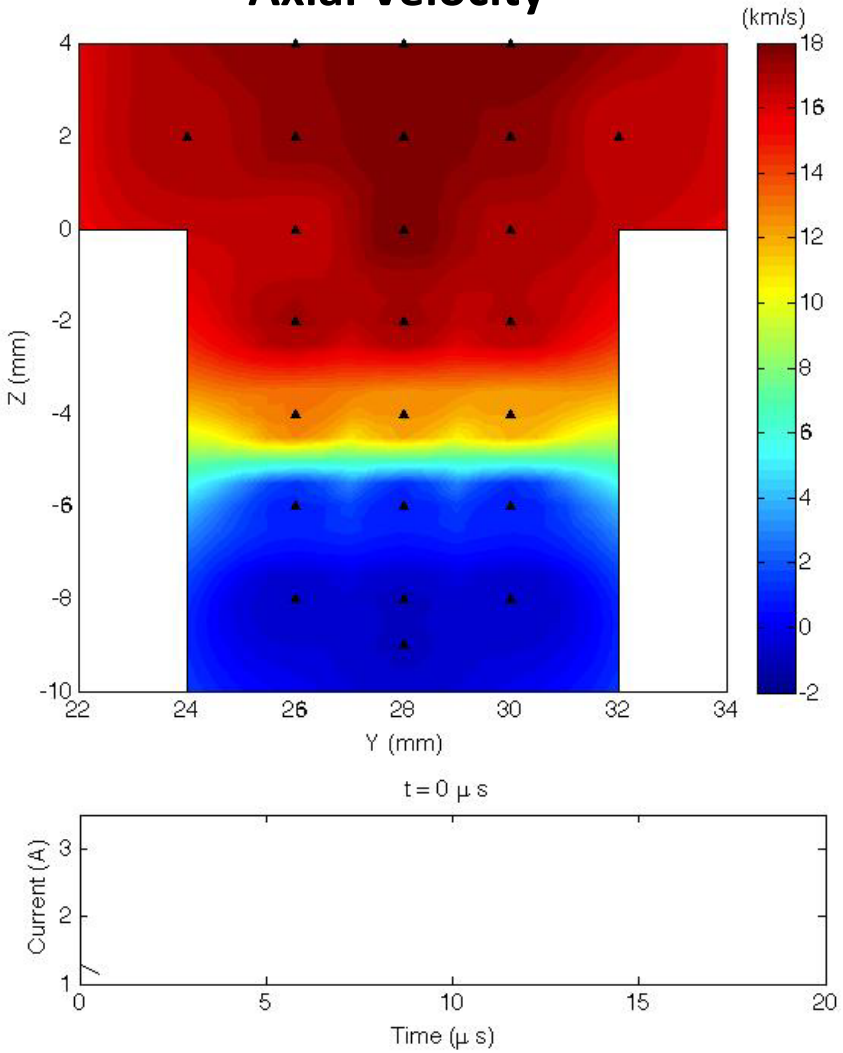


Results: Campaign 1 (Channel, Axial)

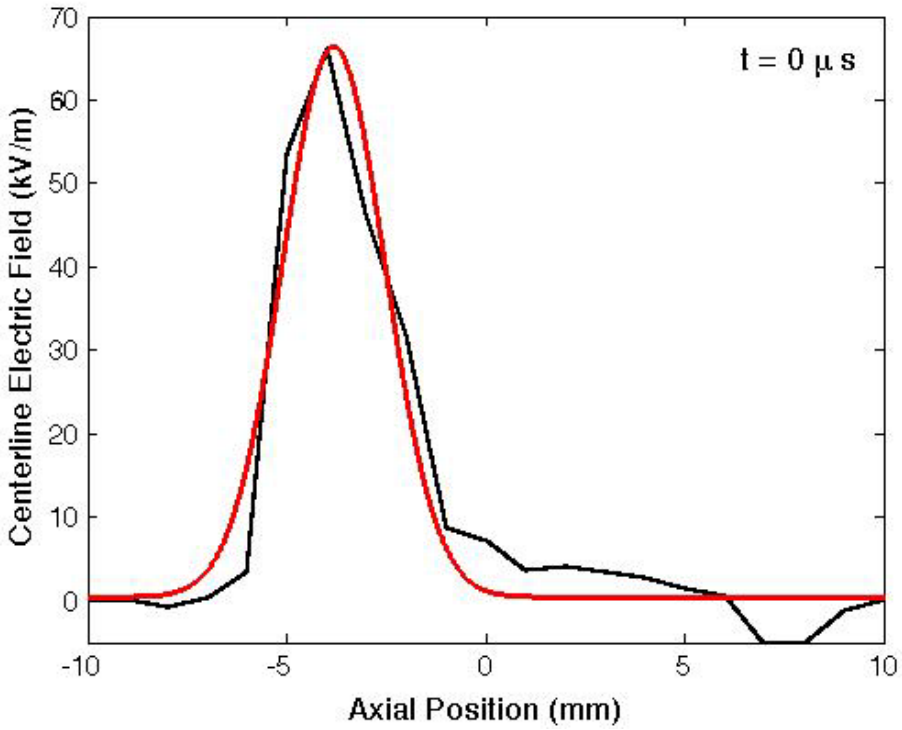


Results: Campaign 1 (Channel, Axial)

Axial Velocity

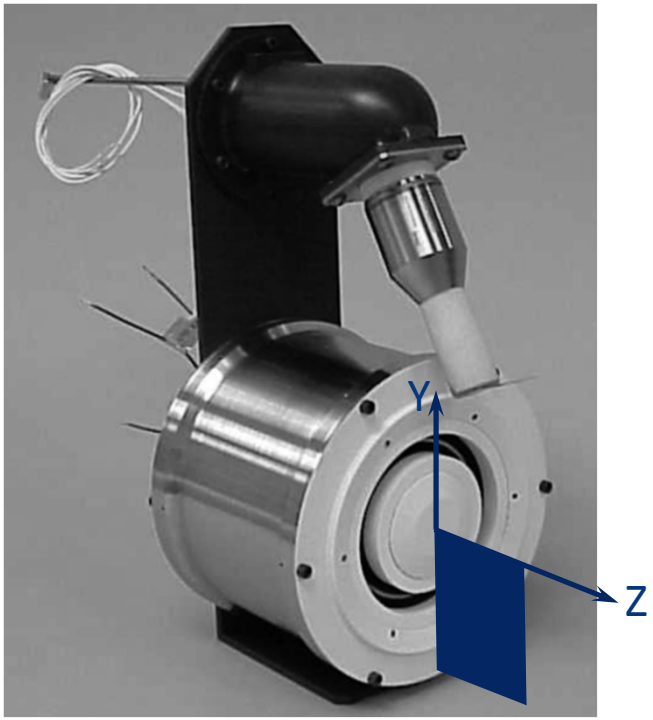


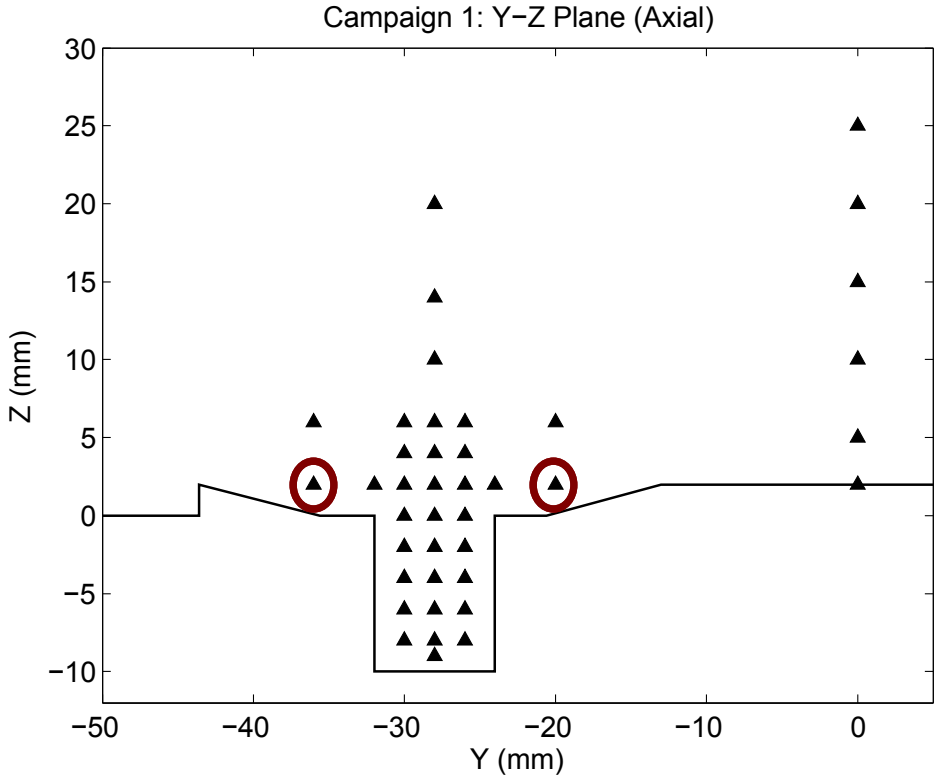
Axial Electric Field



$$E_z = \frac{m_\mathrm{i}}{e}\left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_z \cdot \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}\right)$$

Results: Campaign 1 (Near Field, Axial)

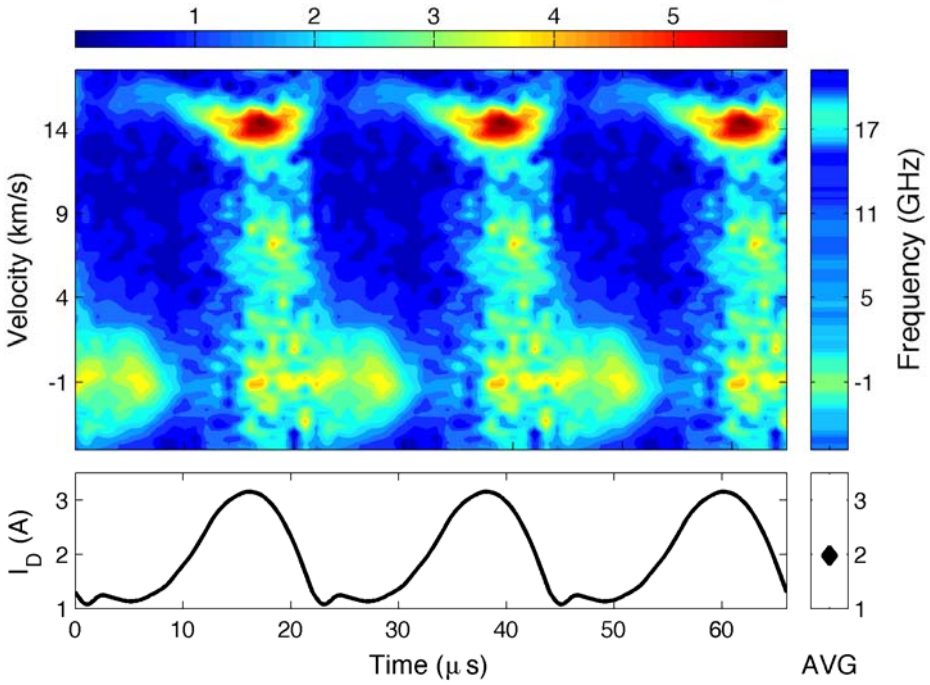




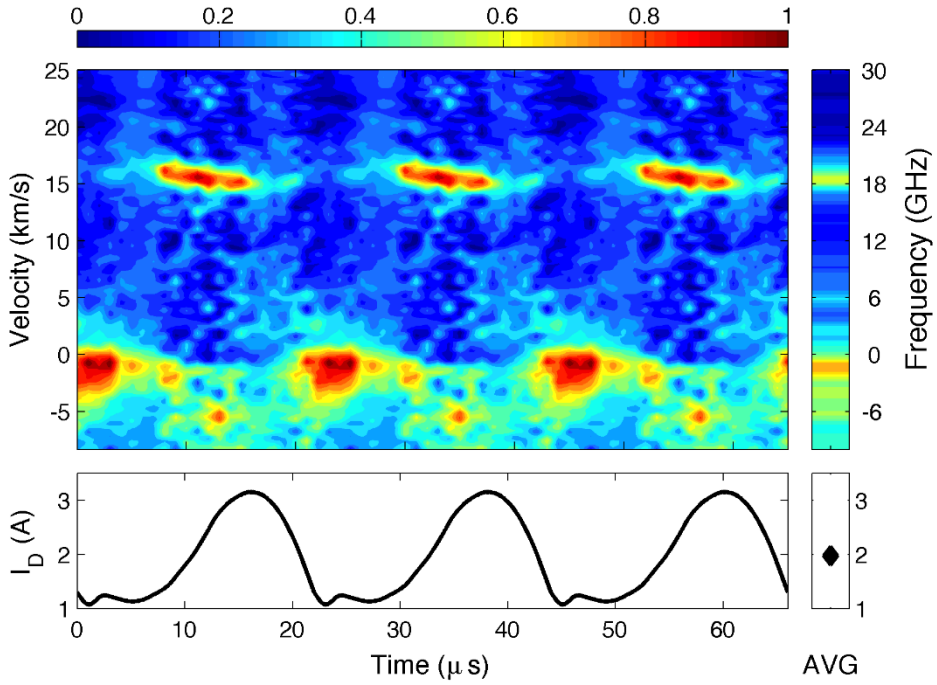
Results: Campaign 1 (Near Field, Axial)

Interesting Behavior: Double axial ion populations near edge of channel

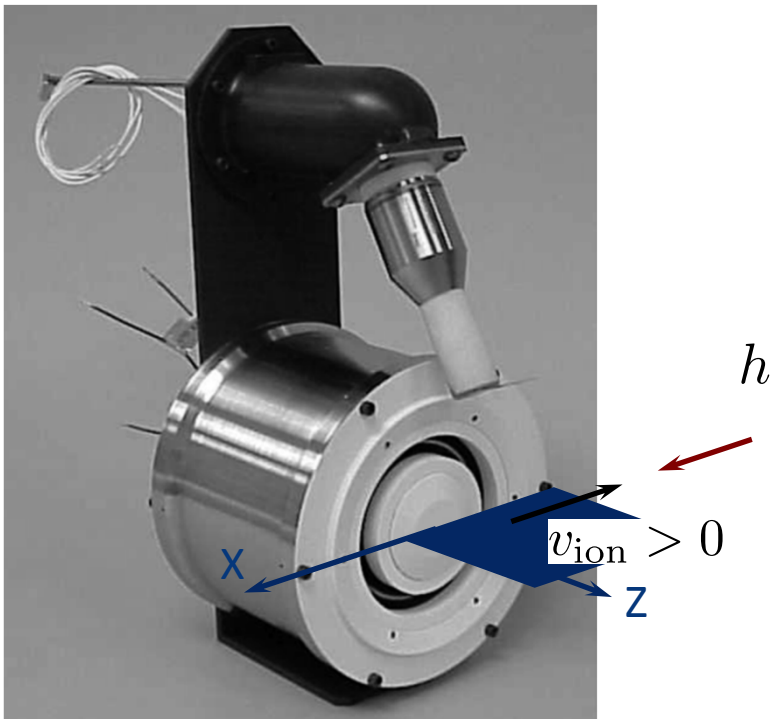
$(x, y, z) = (-20, 0, 2)$ mm

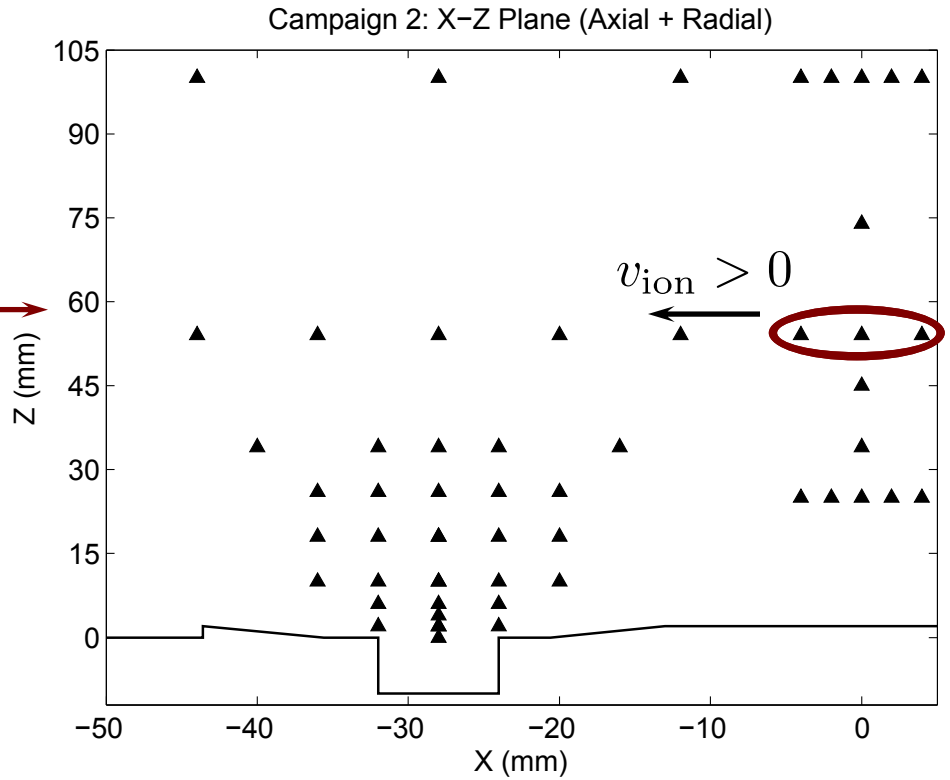


$(x, y, z) = (0, -36, 2)$ mm



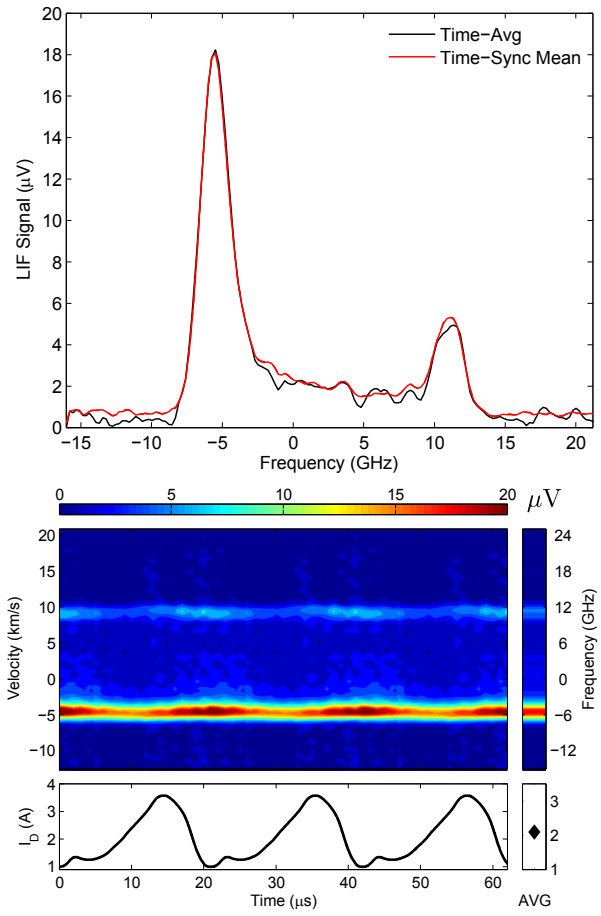
Results: Campaign 2 (Central Jet)



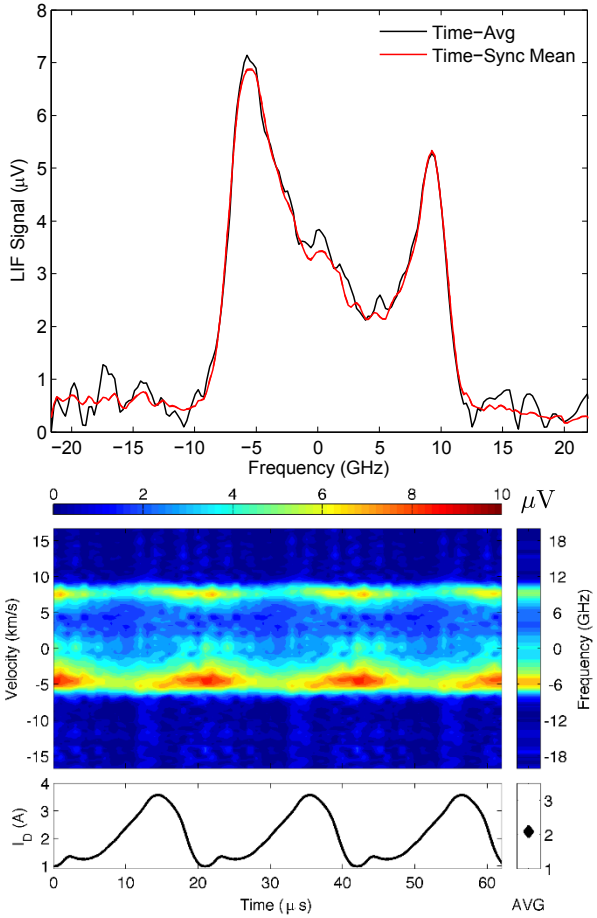


Results: Campaign 2 (Central Jet, Radial)

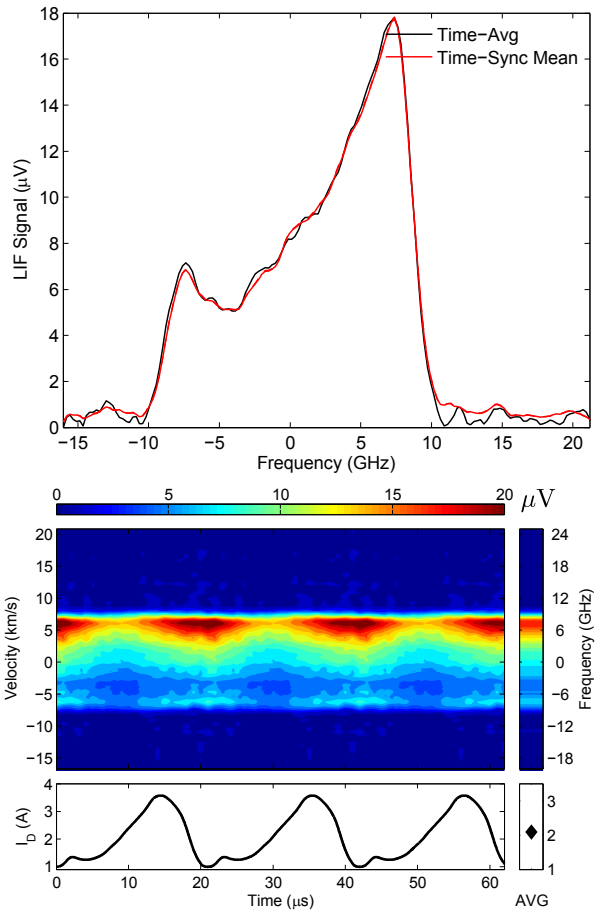
Radial Data: Complex flow field along thruster axis with crossing beams



$(x, y, z) = (-4, 0, 54)$ mm



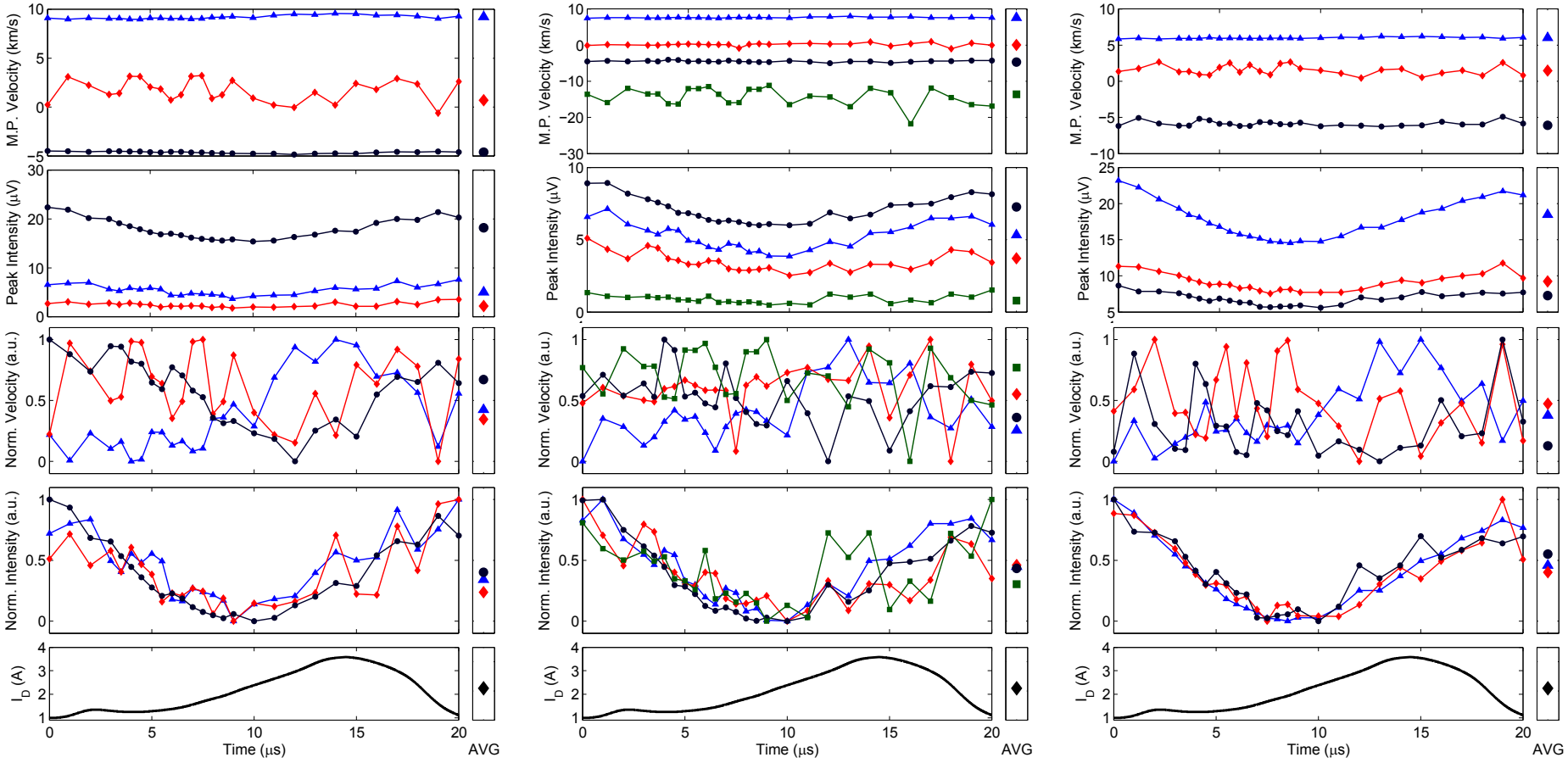
$(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 54)$ mm



$(x, y, z) = (4, 0, 54)$ mm

Results: Campaign 2 (Central Jet, Radial)

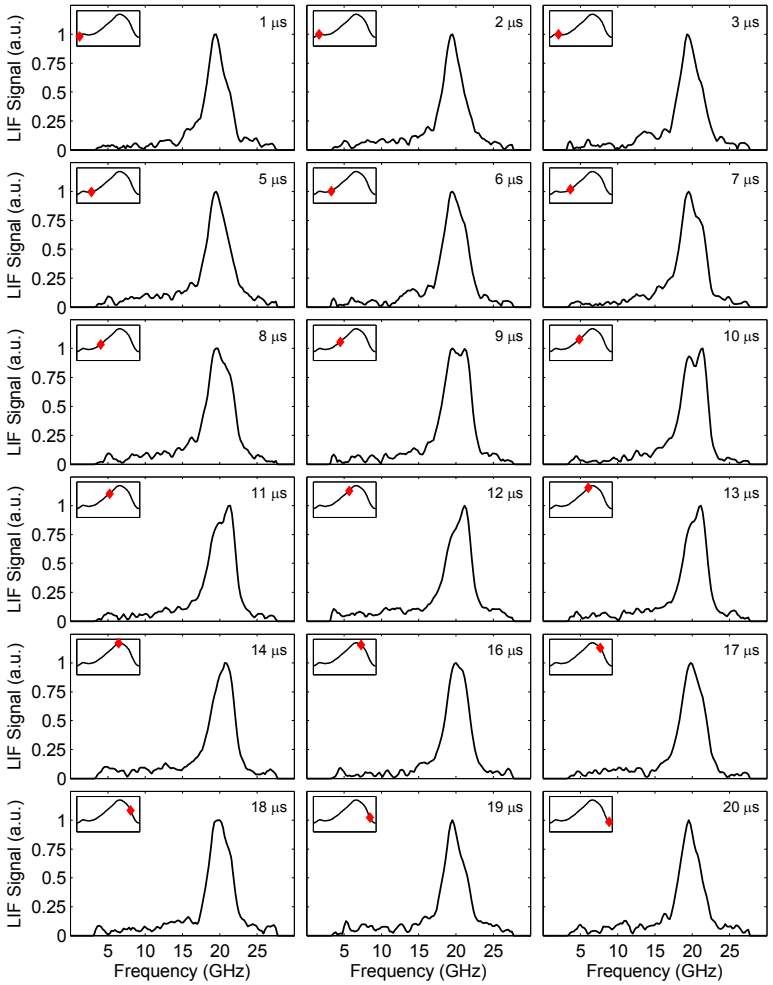
Radial Data: Similar intensity trends, but opposite velocity trends?

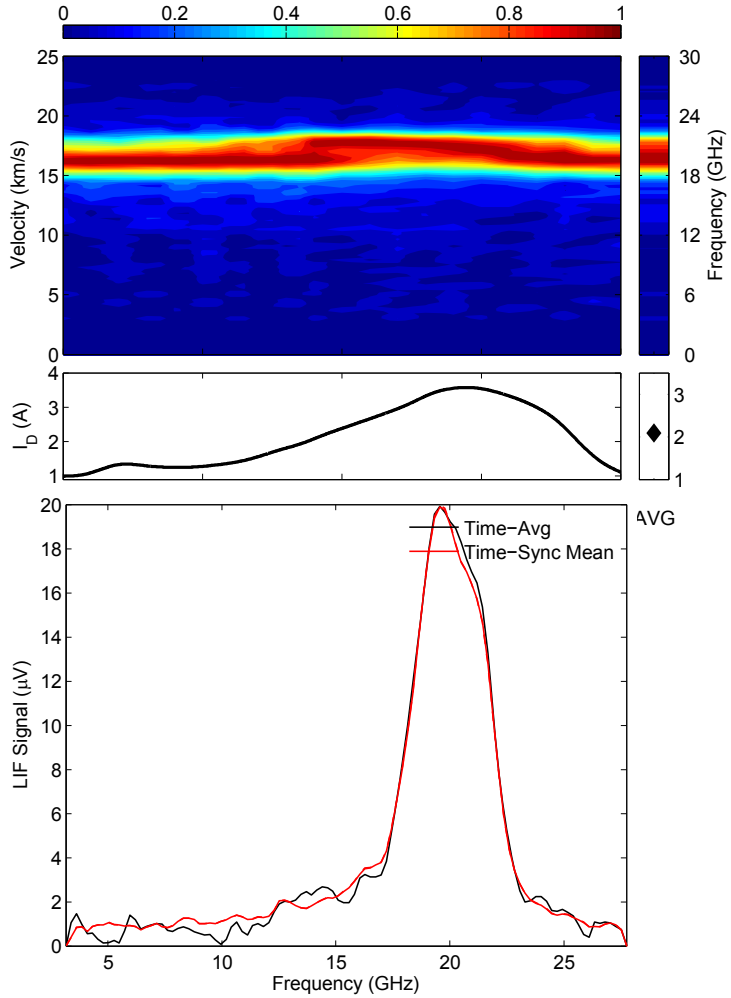


$(x, y, z) = (-4, 0, 54)$ mm $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 54)$ mm $(x, y, z) = (4, 0, 54)$ mm

Results: Campaign 2 (Central Jet, Axial)

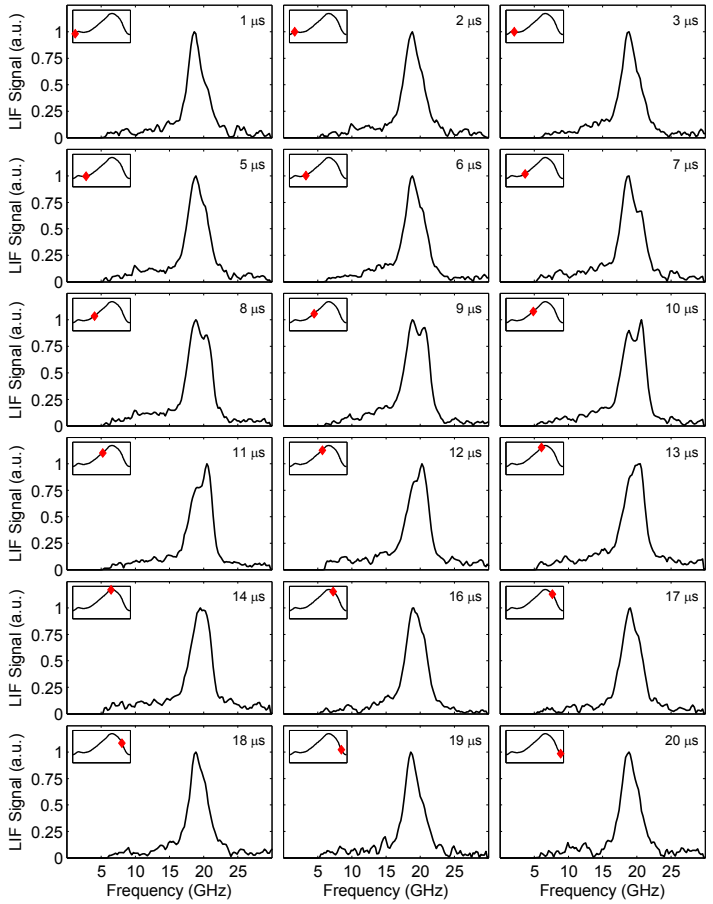
Axial Data: One main population with a hint of two? $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 54)$ mm



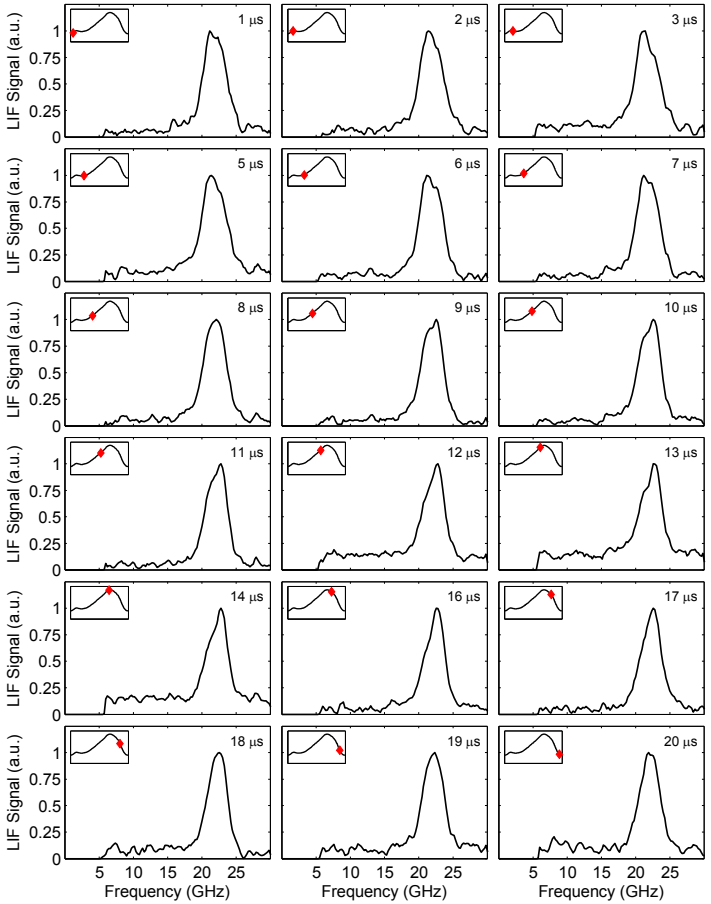


Results: Campaign 2 (Central Jet, Axial)

Axial Data: Double peak behavior apparent all along central jet



$(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 45)$ mm



$(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 100)$ mm

Summary

- Radial (azimuthal) and axial, time-resolved LIF velocity data has been taken in the channel and near-field plume of a BHT-600
- Parallelized sample-hold circuits enabled full time-series acquired at >150 spatial points (axial, with radial/azimuthal at 71) in 22 test days
- Modulations in ion velocity and LIF intensity (excited state ion population) observed in both axial and radial data at breathing mode frequency of 48 kHz
- Data analysis is ongoing, but interesting features like multiple, time-dependent ion populations are already apparent
- Time-resolved ion velocity data can provide benchmark for Hall thruster simulations that should capture realistic dynamics

Questions?

- Radial (azimuthal) and axial, time-resolved LIF velocity data has been taken in the channel and near-field plume of a BHT-600
- Parallelized sample-hold circuits enabled full time-series acquired at >150 spatial points (axial, with radial/azimuthal at 71) in 22 test days
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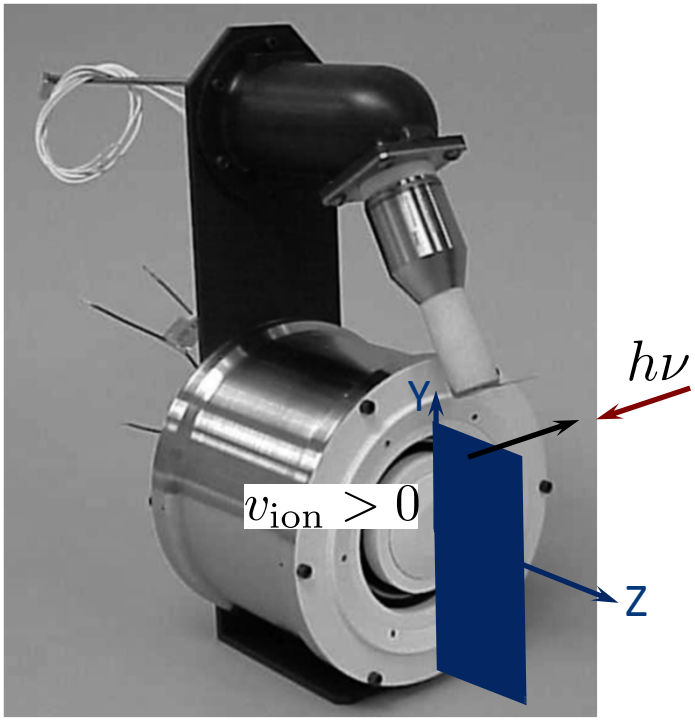
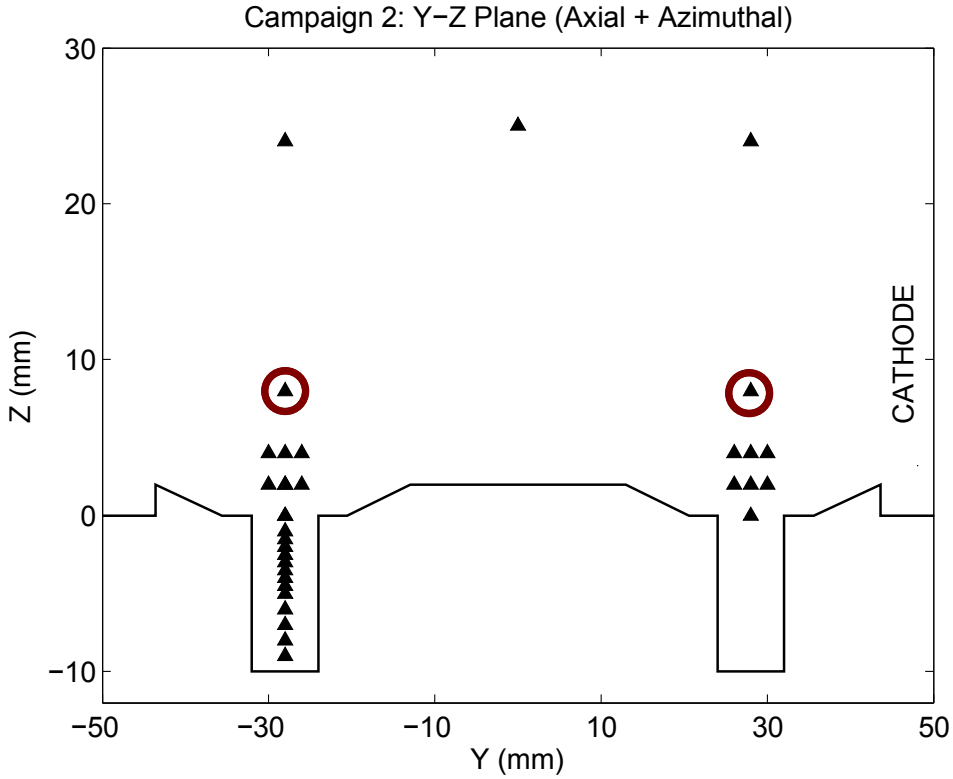
- Time-resolved ion velocity data can provide benchmark for Hall thruster simulations that should capture realistic dynamics

BACKUP

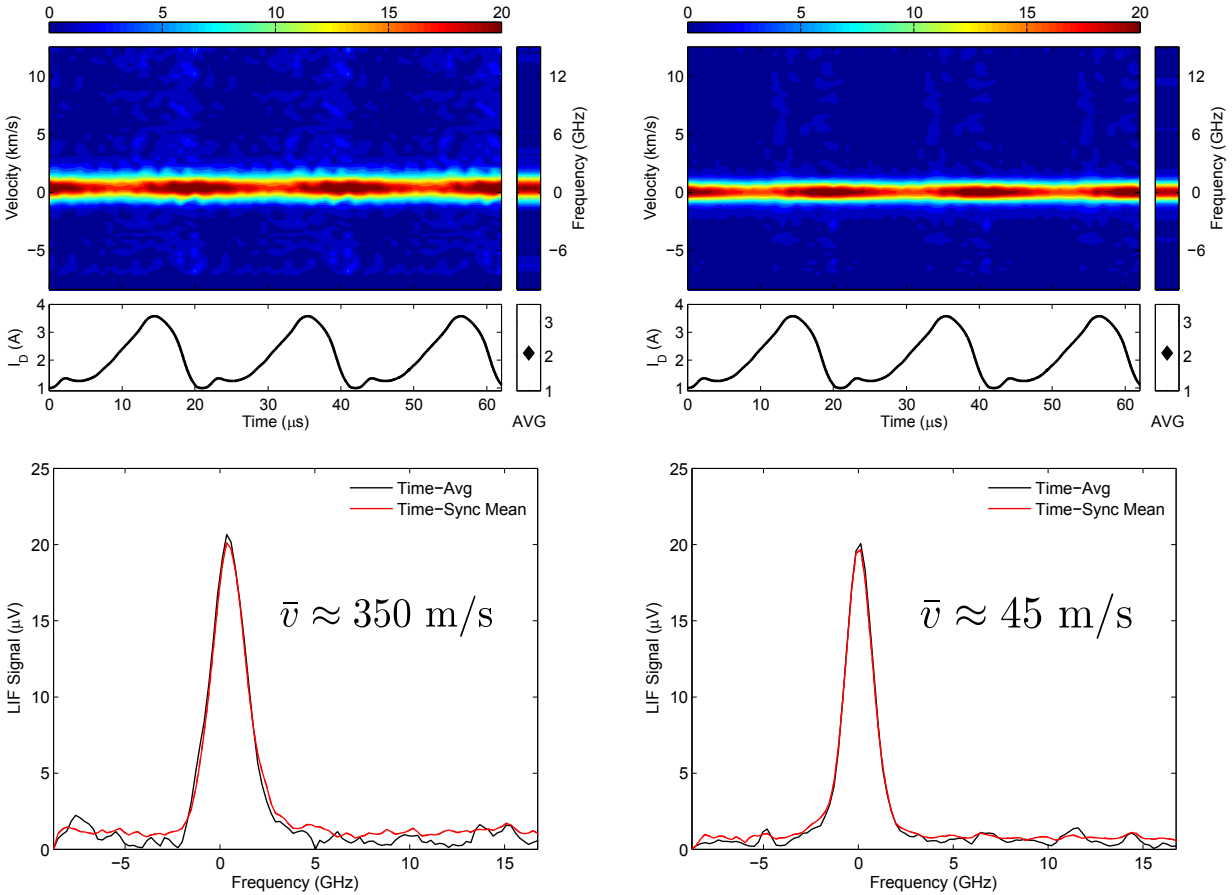
Results: Campaign 2 (Azimuthal Velocities)

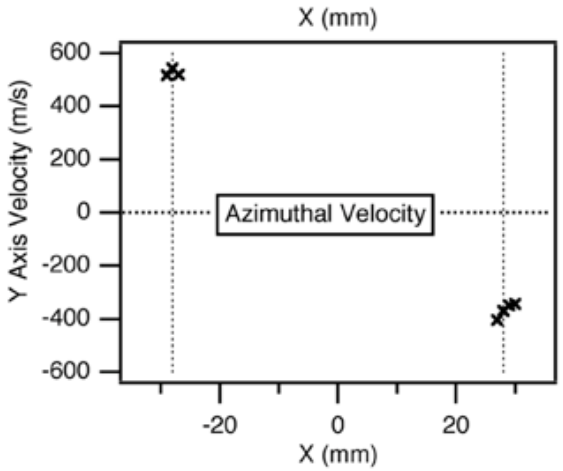




Results: Campaign 2 (Azimuthal Velocities)

Azimuthal Velocities: Small velocity component within measurement uncertainty





(Hargus and Charles, 2010)

$(x, y, z) = (0, 28, 8)$ mm $\qquad$ $(x, y, z) = (0, -28, 8)$ mm

W. A. Hargus Jr. and C. S. Charles, J. Propul. Power. **26** (2010) 135